

Troubleshooter in trouble!

No end to DK Shivakumar's troubles as minister, aspirant knock on Delhi doors; Krishna Byre Gowda in Delhi for clarity on Bengaluru Development portfolio as CM retains BDA, BMRDA

PM Modi calls for de-escalation in talks with Kuwait Emir

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar may have more firefighting to do amid dissatisfaction among his cabinet colleagues over portfolio allocations.

The CM weathered the Ramalinga Reddy storm last week after the senior leader withdrew his resignation, but looks like more turbulence is headed his way as Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who has been allocated the Bengaluru Development portfolio, has still not taken charge.

As per sources, Gowda has his apprehensions over managing the portfolio without clarity. Gowda has been allocated the Greater Bengaluru Development portfolio, while the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) remain with the Chief Minister.

Interestingly, Bengaluru Development portfolio had led to Reddy's heartburn after which he had resigned on June 5 just two days after taking oath. Reddy had claimed that he was promised the portfolio, but instead it was allocated to Gowda and Reddy was assigned Irrigation ministry. Now, it seems even the minister allocated the high-profile portfolio is seeking clarity.

The Congress leadership had managed to placate Reddy and he later took back his resignation.

Shivakumar had last week taken oath along with 13 ministers and has 21 vacancies left to fill, for which hectic lobbying is on by aspirants. The new government has been hit with a series of embarrassing resentments within the first week itself.

The 'hurtburn' called Greater Bengaluru

Byre Gowda is reportedly unhappy that BDA and BMRDA, which are responsible for major projects such as a Rs 27,000-crore Bengaluru Business Corridor, Rs 1,139-crore Hebbal short tunnel project, and the proposed Rs 18,000-crore Bidadi township, have been kept out of his portfolio. The development comes after Congress high command resolved differences with senior leader and Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy, persuading him to withdraw his resignation after he was denied the Bengaluru Development portfolio. As per party sources, Gowda has landed in Delhi to urge the high command to clear the confusion over the portfolios. Along with Gowda, MLA Rizwan Arshad has also flown to Delhi amid lobbying for ministerial berths ahead of Shivakumar Cabinet's expansion. Both leaders are considered close to Rahul Gandhi. However, senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, are in Bengaluru for the funeral of senior AICC secretary Suraj Hegde (55), who passed away on June 7. As per sources, discussions on the issue are likely only after the leadership returns to Delhi. Congress MLA from Shivajinagar, Arshad, served as the chairman of the Joint Review Committee for the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024. The committee's work led to the establishment of the GBA. Gowda has been entrusted with the Greater Bengaluru Development portfolio. His responsibilities include the GBA, the five city corporations under GBA, the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), and the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

Internal dissent and Delhi rushes

The newly-formed government has been immediately hit with organizational turbulence:

PORTFOLIO UNHAPPINESS: Several senior leaders have reportedly voiced displeasure over their assigned ministries. Minister KH Muniyappa publicly requested a more significant portfolio given his seniority.

THE KB GOWDA STALLED START: Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has notably not taken charge of his department yet.

HIGH COMMAND INTERVENTION: Dissatisfied ministers and aspirants are rushing to New Delhi to lobby the Congress high command for better positions, fueling speculation that the cabinet formation is still in flux.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara openly expressed deep disappointment over missing the CM post three times and even admitted he had considered quitting politics if denied the top role. His remarks have sparked fresh debates about internal power dynamics within the state.

THE REDDY RESIGNATION & PATCH UP: Shivakumar already had to put out fires earlier in the week when eight-time MLA Ramalinga Reddy tendered his resignation. Reddy was reportedly unhappy with being allotted the Irrigation portfolio instead of the much-coveted Bengaluru Development role. While Shivakumar managed to resolve that specific crisis after marathon late-night meetings, it highlighted the challenges the new CM faces in keeping veteran leaders aligned.

PM Modi calls for de-escalation in talks with Kuwait Emir

Modi also expressed deep concern over the escalation of tensions in West Asia and reaffirmed India's strong condemnation of attacks on Kuwait's sovereignty.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for de-escalation in the Middle East and stressed the need for dialogue and diplomacy during a phone call with Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

As per a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the two leaders discussed the evolving security situation in the region.

Modi expressed "deep concern" over the escalation and reaffirmed India's "strong condemnation of attacks on Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity." He also called for "de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy" to restore peace and stability as soon as possible, the statement said.

Modi thanked the Amir for his personal attention to the continued well-being and the safety of the large Indian community in Kuwait.

The development comes days after an Indian national was killed in an Iranian strike, first time since an April cease-

Inside the conversation

The two leaders exchange views on the situation in West Asia.

PM Modi reaffirms India's strong condemnation of attacks on Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Modi reiterates call for de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy.

PM thanks His Highness the Amir for his personal attention to the well-being and safety of the Indian community in Kuwait.

fire, on the Kuwait International Airport on June 3. The attack came amid escalating tensions between Israel and Iran.

Kuwait stated that Iranian strikes killed one person, injured 63 and damaged key facilities, including diplomatic missions. Iran's IRGC claimed that the attacks targeted US bases in Kuwait in retaliation for a recent American strike on Qeshm Island in southern Iran.

Will conduct error-free NEET: Pradhan

NEW DELHI

With less than two weeks remaining for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test - Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2026 re-examination, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the test would be conducted in a "completely error-free" manner and that results would be declared on schedule.

He told media on Tuesday that the National Testing Agency (NTA) had completed extensive preparations for the June 21 examination and expressed confidence in the agency's ability to conduct the test smoothly. "We had said earlier that we would conduct an error-free NEET examination this time, and I want to reassure everyone once again," he said. He also assured candidates that the results would be announced on time so that students do not lose valuable academic time.

Exam in 551 cities

Pradhan said the re-examina-

NTA, NMC, ministry officials to face parliamentary panel over NEET-UG re-exam

Senior officials from the Ministries of Health and Education, the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the National Medical Commission (NMC) will brief a parliamentary panel on Wednesday on the conduct of the NEET-UG re-examination scheduled for June 21. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare has summoned the Higher Education Secretary, the Health Secretary and senior officials of the NTA and NMC to brief members on the re-examination process. This will be the third parliamentary panel before which officials from the two ministries, the NTA and the NMC have appeared in connection with NEET-related issues.

'Probe into paper leak on'

On the alleged paper leak that led to the cancellation of the original examination, he said the probe was still underway. "The CBI is getting to the bottom of it and examining what irregularities occurred and where they took place," he said.

Modi govt intoxicated on power: Cong on Ujjwala refill cut

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday hit out at the government over its reduction of the number of subsidised refills of LPG gas cylinders under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and alleged that it only sheds "crocodile tears" on the plight of women while being "intoxicated on power".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in an X post said, "2016: Modi-ji claimed that the Ujjwala Yojana would liberate women from the smoke of wood-burning stoves. There was a promise of 12 subsidised cylinders a year. However, last year, that number was reduced from 12 to 9. 2026: Now, the number of subsidised cylinders has been further cut from 9 to just 4. In short a promise of 12, but an intention of giving only 4."

'Forged signature': CID storms Didi's home

KOLKATA

As trouble mounts for TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee, a team of CID officers reached her Kalighat residence on Tuesday as part of the investigation into the 'forged signature controversy' that has triggered an unprecedented split in the party.

Mamata's residence, which she also uses as office, at 30B Harish Chatterjee Street was stormed by personnel from the Kalighat police station and a large contingent of women police personnel.

This comes just days after CID served notices seeking information related to the alleged forging of signatures of TMC legislators on a proposal submitted to the Assembly Speaker for recognition of the Leader of Opposition.

"In his response, Abhishek Banerjee stated that signatures of MLAs were collected at the party's central office at 30B Harish Chatterjee Street. Based on that statement, we have come here as part of the investigation," a CID officer said.

TMC leader and former MP Subhasish Chakraborty, however, said that the officers were not allowed to enter. "We have not allowed the CID to enter the premises in the absence of Abhishek Banerjee. Once he comes, the CID can come and search the house," Chakraborty said.

What's the controversy?

The signature controversy has resulted in the biggest internal crisis in the TMC's 28-year history. It is about a proposal sent to the Speaker seeking recognition of senior TMC MLA Sovande Chattopadhyay as Leader of Opposition allegedly contained forged signatures of several legislators. The allegations led to the filing of an FIR and a CID probe. This has subsequently resulted in an existential crisis for the TMC as 58 of the TMC's 80 MLAs defied the party leadership and backed expelled MLA Ritabrata Banerjee for the post instead of the party's official nominee, Sovande Chattopadhyay. Just last week, the rebel camp elected Ritabrata as LoP and secured recognition from the Assembly Speaker.

RESORT POLITICS RETURNS

Poaching fears: MP Cong moves MLAs to K'taka

BHOPAL

The Congress took several of its MLAs in Madhya Pradesh, barring a few senior legislators, from Bhopal to Bengaluru on Wednesday ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls in the state on June 18, PTI reported.

The Congress is the ruling party in Karnataka and is in the Opposition in Madhya Pradesh.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Umang Singhar told the news agency that the Congress MLAs "will definitely go to the state where our government is in power". It is "important to keep an eye out because of the way BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is trying to cause disruptions", he said.

While 48 Congress MLAs boarded a flight on Tuesday afternoon, another batch of legislators was likely to travel the evening, The Hindu reported.

The 230-member Assembly is going to elect three members to the Rajya Sabha on June 18. With the Assembly's effective strength at 229, a candidate requires 58 first-preference votes to win.

Of these seats, the BJP has 164 MLAs excluding the speaker. While the Congress has 63 MLAs, its ally Bharat Adivasi Party one.

The BJP has the numbers to win two of the three seats as it needs 116 votes to do so.

However, it will be left with 48 votes that are not sufficient to clinch the third seat.

As it stands, the Congress has 63 MLAs, giving it enough votes to win the third seat. This is despite the High Court having barred one MLA from voting. Another MLA's vote is uncertain because of a separate court petition seeking her disqualification.

MP Cong moves MLAs to K'taka

The BJP initially fielded its National General Secretary Tarun Chugh and state unit Secretary Rajneesh Agrawal. It later named Mahesh Kewat, the chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Fishermen Welfare Board, as its third candidate.

The Congress has only fielded former MP Meenakshi Natarajan.

The BJP nominating the third candidate has led to concerns in the Congress' state leadership about possible poaching attempts.

The Congress' state chief Jitu Patwari said that while the BJP speaks about women's empowerment, it had "fielded a candidate against our women nominee despite lacking eight to ten MLAs."

Rahul pays last respects to Suraj Hegde in B'luru

BJP-JDS, Cong spar over denial of RS nomination to Deve Gowda

BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday paid his last respects to AICC secretary Suraj Hegde (55), who died of cardiac arrest late on Sunday night.

Accompanied by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and former CM Siddaramaiah, Rahul visited Suraj's residence on BEL Road, where the mortal remains were kept. He consoled the grieving family members, including Suraj's wife Shilpa and their two sons. AICC general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala were also present.

The cremation was held at the Hebbal crematorium on Tuesday afternoon.

Suraj, the grandson of former Chief Minister D Devaraj Urs, had worked closely with Rahul as the AICC secretary in charge of Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. He was also the vice chairman of the Karnataka State Guarantees Implementation Committee.

BJP-JDS, Cong spar over denial of RS nomination to Deve Gowda

A political slugfest broke out between the Congress and JDS after the BJP declared M Nagaraja as its Rajya Sabha candidate from Karnataka.

Congress leaders called the move a humiliation to the JDS, saying that the BJP has denied a Rajya Sabha nomination to JDS patriarch and former PM HD Deve Gowda from Karnataka for a subsequent term.

AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said that the BJP has decided to field its former state-unit vice-president over a former PM. Hitting back, JD(S) urged Surjewala to recall what Congress did to Gowda when he was the PM. "Kannadigas have not forgotten Congress' betrayal even after 30 years."

QUICK READ

**Free health camp benefits 650 police personnel in Bengaluru**

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A free health check-up camp for police personnel was organised at various police stations in Bengaluru in collaboration with Aashirvaad by Aliaxis and Smile Foundation. The camp offered screenings for heart disease, hearing loss and eye-related ailments, along with various diagnostic tests. Special consultation facilities with gynecologists were also arranged for women police personnel. Speaking on the occasion, Sudeep Agarwal, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Aashirvaad by Aliaxis, said the initiative was aimed at creating awareness about the importance of regular medical check-ups for police personnel who work tirelessly to ensure public safety.

Transgender groups clash near police station

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Tension prevailed near the Madiwala police station after a clash broke out between two groups of transgender people. According to reports, a scuffle between the groups escalated, with members of one group allegedly attacking the other. When the victims approached the Madiwala police station to file a complaint, another confrontation reportedly occurred between the rival groups. Alleging that police refused to register their complaint, the transgender persons staged a protest by blocking Hosur Road. Traffic movement was disrupted for some time as protesters repeatedly blocked the busy road, demanding police action and justice. Police later intervened to restore normal traffic flow.

Minor driving car injures two bikers; parents booked by police

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Two persons were injured after a car driven by a minor boy rammed into their motorcycle near BDA Park in Bengaluru. The injured have been identified as Arun Kumar and Vinay. According to police, the car hit the bike from behind, causing both riders to sustain injuries. After the accident, the driver allegedly attempted to flee the scene. However, local residents intercepted the vehicle and discovered that the driver was a minor. Following a complaint by the injured persons, the Jnanabharathi Traffic Police registered a case against the minor and his parents. Further investigation is underway.

Women to get smart cards; 5,000 new buses planned statewide

State to issue free smart cards and expand bus fleet

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has decided to introduce smart cards for women beneficiaries of the Shakti Yojana, enabling them to travel more efficiently and seamlessly on government-run buses across the state. Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh announced the initiative after officially assuming charge of the Transport Department.

The minister said more than three crore women are expected to benefit from the smart card system, which will be provided free of cost under the Shakti scheme. The cards will allow women to avail free travel benefits without the need for manual verification during every journey.



Byrathi Suresh said men will also be able to obtain similar smart cards by paying a prescribed fee, similar to the Metro card system. These cards can be recharged whenever the balance is exhausted. Given the large number of cards to be issued, the government plans to invite tenders for their production and distribution. Officials have been instructed

to initiate the process at the earliest and implement the project on a pilot basis before expanding it across the state.

After taking charge, the minister visited the headquarters of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and held a review meeting with senior officials of all four state-run transport corporations — KSRTC, Bangalore

Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMT), North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC).

Reviewing the performance of the department, Suresh said the Congress government's guarantee schemes have significantly improved the lives of citizens, especially women. He noted that the Shakti Yojana has benefited crores of women and increased bus ridership by nearly 40 per cent since its launch.

The minister also unveiled plans to strengthen public transport infrastructure by adding 5,000 new buses to the fleet. Of these, 1,000 buses will be purchased using state government funds.

"In addition, 4,000 electric buses will be procured with financial assistance from the Central government. These buses will be purchased in phases and distributed among the four transport corporations based on operational requirements," he said.

Emphasising passenger safety, particularly for women and girls, Byrathi Suresh directed officials to expedite the installation of Vehicle Location Tracking Systems (VLTs) in commercial vehicles, including taxis, cabs and other passenger transport vehicles.

The minister said the government remains committed to modernising public transport while ensuring safer, greener and more accessible mobility for all citizens.

Immuneel raises Rs 100 crore to expand affordable cancer therapies

BENGALURU

Immuneel Therapeutics, the cell and gene therapy company founded by Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, has raised more than Rs 100 crore from a group of new investors, including Singularity AMC, Rainmatter by Zerodha and several high-net-worth individuals.

The company is focused on developing and commercialising advanced cell and gene therapies for cancer and other serious diseases. The fresh capital infusion is expected to accelerate its efforts to expand manufacturing capacity, strengthen research programmes and broaden access to life-saving treatments. Immuneel recently launched Qartemi, an approved CAR-T therapy for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, is now expanding its presence.

Cybersecurity talent crunch fuels massive job switching across India

BENGALURU

India's cybersecurity sector is witnessing intense competition for skilled professionals, with nearly one in five cybersecurity experts changing jobs annually amid growing demand and a widening talent gap, according to a report by Careernet.

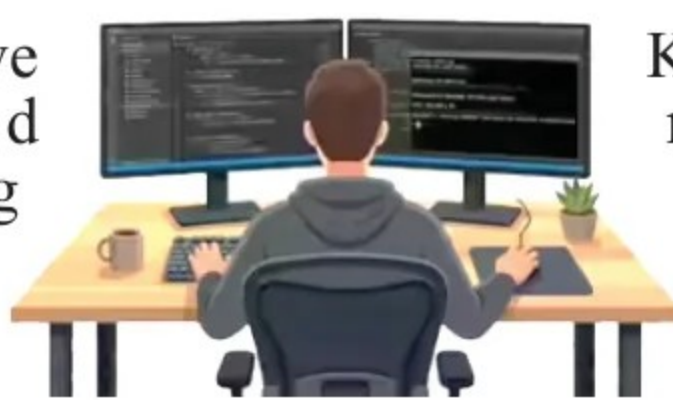
The report estimates that annual mobility in India's cybersecurity workforce has reached 18.9 per cent, resulting in nearly 57,000 professionals switching employers every year. The trend reflects increasing demand for specialised cybersecurity expertise as organisations face escalating cyber threats and rapidly evolving technology environments.

India has emerged as a major hotspot in the global cyber threat landscape. Data from the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) shows that cybersecurity incidents rose from 394,000 in 2019 to 1.5 million in 2023. The report estimates that inci-

dent volumes have nearly doubled again, reaching around 3 million cases in 2025.

India currently has an estimated cybersecurity workforce of around 300,000 professionals, accounting for approximately 5.5 per cent of the global experienced cybersecurity talent pool of 5.5 million. However, workforce growth has struggled to keep pace with increasing cyber risks and the demand for advanced security capabilities.

The report notes that around 65,000 cybersecurity professionals are actively seeking new opportunities, while employers are attempting to fill nearly 39,000 open positions. The annual talent pipeline adds between 40,000 and 60,000 professionals, but demand continues to outstrip supply in several specialised domains.

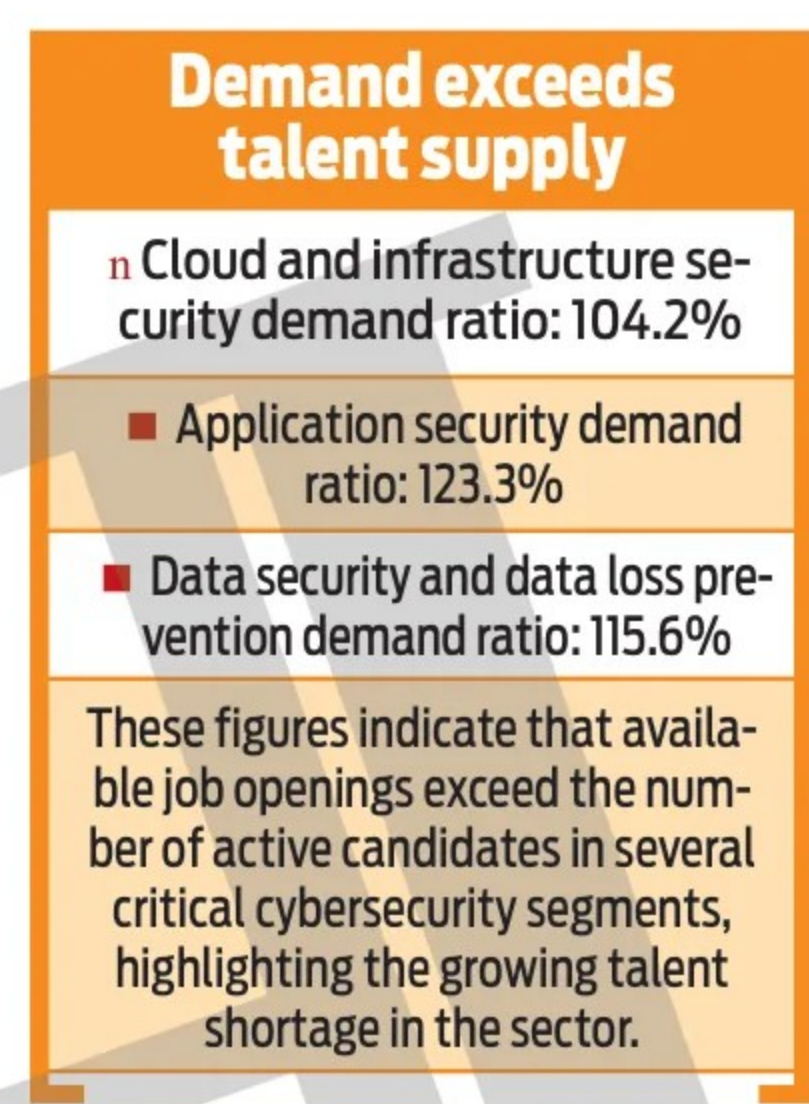


Annual mobility in India's cybersecurity workforce stands at 18.9%, translating to nearly 57,000 professionals switching employers each year.

Key sectors driving recruitment include banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), information technology and IT-enabled services, government and defence, telecommunications, and healthcare.

The highest attrition rates were reported in cloud-native and container security (26.67 per cent), AI and machine learning security (25.97 per cent), cloud and infrastructure security (23.04 per cent), endpoint security (22.92 per cent), and security operations and monitoring (22.24 per cent).

According to Anshuman Das, CEO and co-founder of Careernet, traditional areas such as governance, risk and compliance have relatively balanced talent availability. However, emerging domains including AI and ML security, privacy protection, cloud-na-



tive security, blockchain and Web3 security, and quantum-safe security continue to face severe demand-supply imbalances.

India's cybersecurity talent ecosystem has largely evolved through the IT services industry and large security operations centres serving global clients.

While this model has created scale, experts believe it has not developed sufficient depth in newer technology-focused security disciplines.

Infosys defers hiring assessments after detecting cheating and impersonation cases

BENGALURU

IT services major Infosys has postponed online and in-person hiring assessments for more than 20,000 job applicants after uncovering multiple instances of impersonation and malpractice during recruitment evaluations.

The company, which recruits students from around 300 to 400 colleges across India every year, deferred assessments for Specialist Programmer (Trainee) and Digital Specialist Engineer (Trainee) positions after detecting attempts to manipulate the evaluation process.

Following the discovery, Infosys introduced additional safeguards and verification mechanisms aimed at protecting the integrity of its recruitment system. In a communication sent to candidates, the company informed applicants



that the scheduled assessments had been deferred and that revised dates would be announced once a new evaluation plan is finalised. "We truly appreciate your flexibility and understanding. The revised exam date will be shared with all registered candidates in due course," the company stated in its email.

Infosys clarified that both the online hiring examination and in-person evaluations for the affected roles have been postponed. The company said all impacted candidates have been informed and fresh schedules

will be communicated soon.

Despite the deferment, Infosys stressed that its hiring commitments remain unchanged.

"This deferment does not impact our hiring plans. We remain focused on identifying, hiring and nurturing top talent," the company said. The Bengaluru-headquartered technology giant continues to recruit aggressively from campuses across the country. During FY26, Infosys added more than 20,000 fresh graduates and has indicated a similar intake target for FY27. The company conducts its online screening and talent assessment programmes through its digital learning platform, Springboard. The platform has reached over 15 million users, including students, educators, employees, client workforces and community members through various digital skilling initiatives.

HCU upholds BWSSB's power to lay sewer lines on pvt land

BENGALURU

In a significant ruling with implications for Bengaluru's infrastructure projects, the Karnataka High Court has upheld the constitutional validity of Section 77 of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Act, which empowers the water utility to lay sewerage pipelines through private land without acquiring the property or paying compensation in advance.

The ruling came from a single-judge bench headed by Justice Suraj Govindaraj after hearing a batch of petitions filed by T.N. Chandrashekar Gowda, an 80-year-old woman identified as Jethronica, and others. The petitioners had chal-

lenged the BWSSB's decision to install sewerage pipelines across their land, arguing that it infringed upon their property rights.

Rejecting the challenge, the court observed that special powers granted to the BWSSB are necessary to ensure effective urban sanitation and public health management in a rapidly growing metropolis like Bengaluru. The bench noted that the civic life of a large city depends heavily on efficient water supply and sewerage systems. Since drainage infrastructure is vital for public health, environmental protection and urban development, larger public interest must prevail over individual inconvenience in such cases.

CBSE evaluation concerns push students towards PU colleges

BENGALURU

Growing concerns over alleged evaluation errors in the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) On-Screen Marking (OSM) system are prompting a noticeable shift of students from CBSE schools to Pre-University (PU) colleges in Bengaluru.

Several schools have reported students withdrawing from Class 11 admissions despite forfeiting advance fees, reflecting a deepening trust deficit among parents and students. Many fear that inconsistencies in CBSE evaluation, particularly in core subjects such as Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, could affect their future academic prospects.

The concern is particularly significant in Karnataka, where admissions to professional courses consider an equal weightage of marks obtained in the Common Entrance Test (CET) and Class 12 board examinations. Parents worry that lower scores in CBSE assessments could place students at a disadvantage compared to their PU counterparts.

A senior secondary coordinator at a CBSE school in Bengaluru said five students recently withdrew from Class 11 after the CBSE controversy surfaced. "Our admissions began in November and continued until March. Students paid a deposit of ₹30,000. Despite not receiving refunds, five students chose to leave because their parents were worried about the uncertainty surrounding CBSE evaluation," the teacher said.

BESCOM expands OC relaxation, offers major relief to homeowners

BENGALURU

In a significant relief for homeowners across Bengaluru, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) has clarified that residential buildings measuring up to 2,400 sqm are not required to obtain an Occupancy Certificate (OC) to obtain a permanent electricity connection, provided construction was completed before May 31, 2026.

The decision effectively broadens the Karnataka government's recent relaxation of OC



norms and resolves widespread confusion among homeowners, builders and electrical contractors regarding eligibility for permanent power connections.

The uncertainty arose after the state government, acting on an announcement by Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, exempted houses up to 2,400 sqft from the OC requirement that had become mandatory following a Supreme Court directive. However, the government order appeared to suggest that only applications submitted before May 31 would qualify for the relaxation.

This triggered concerns among thousands of homeowners who were unable to apply earlier because BESCOM offi-

cials had reportedly stopped accepting applications from property owners lacking approved building plans after the Supreme Court's December 2024 ruling.

Homeowners and electrical contractors argued that the cut-off condition was unfair, as many applicants had no opportunity to submit requests during the period of uncertainty.

Satish Kumar, a resident of Kengeri, said he completed construction of his house in October 2025 and moved in the following month using a temporary electricity connection.

"When I approached BESCOM for a permanent connection, officials refused to accept my application citing the Supreme Court order. We continued to live with a temporary connection. It is unfair to insist on a cut-off date when applications were not even being accepted," he said.

The Karnataka Electrical Contractors' Association (KECA) also welcomed the clarification. KECA president C. Ramesh pointed out that applications under the Sakala framework remain valid only for a limited

period and lapse if not processed within the stipulated timeframe. "Most homeowners waited for clarity from the government instead of repeatedly filing fresh applications," he said.

Contractors have also sought clarification regarding commercial buildings and paying guest accommodations, arguing that a broader interpretation of the relaxation could benefit nearly five lakh buildings instead of only a few thousand. A senior BESCOM official clarified that eligible homeowners will not lose the benefit of the exemption.



Mango Mela records sale of 300 tonnes of fruit in five days

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The ongoing Mango Mela at Lalbagh Botanical Garden has recorded the sale of nearly 300 tonnes of mangoes within the first five days, reflecting strong public demand for quality fruits. Organised jointly by the Department of Horticulture and the State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation, the 25-day fair began last week and witnessed a huge turnout over the weekend. More than 10 varieties of mangoes cultivated by farmers from Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts are being showcased and sold at the event. Popular varieties include Badami, Rasapuri, Mallika, Sindoor, Totapuri and Banganapalli.

Special police squads sought to tackle drugs near schools, colleges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
MLC Dinesh Gooligouda has urged Home Minister Priyank Kharge to form special police squads and intensify patrols to curb the growing drug menace around schools and colleges. In a memorandum, Gooligouda expressed concern over the increasing availability of drugs and intoxicants, including marijuana, near educational institutions. He sought strict enforcement of the COTPA Act and a ban on tobacco products around campuses. He also demanded monthly reviews of drug-related and CO TPA cases by senior police officers, creation of district-level anti-drug units, rehabilitation and counselling facilities, a confidential helpline, awareness programmes in schools and colleges to protect students.

Fire audit ordered at KR Market to prevent future accidents

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to conduct an immediate fire audit at KR Market to prevent fire-related accidents and improve public safety. During an inspection of the market under the Bengaluru Central Municipal Corporation, Rao instructed officials to assess potential fire hazards, review existing firefighting systems and identify emergency response measures. He stressed the need for adequate emergency exits to ensure the safe evacuation of people in case of a fire. He also called for the installation of fire extinguisher pipelines and other infrastructure to enable quicker firefighting operations.

New Kidney Care Hospital Planned in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

To address the growing number of patients seeking treatment for kidney and urinary tract ailments, the state government has approved the establishment of a new branch of the Institute of Nephro-Urology in Bengaluru. The proposed facility is expected to significantly enhance specialised healthcare services, particularly for residents of Bengaluru North and neighbouring districts.

The new hospital will be constructed at Sajjepalya in Yeshwantpur Hobli. The state

Relief for Bengaluru residents as bus fares and hotel prices stay unchanged

Despite rising costs, Bengaluru gets relief as fares and food prices stay unchanged

BENGALURU

With prices of petrol, diesel, LPG cylinders and essential commodities continuing to rise, people across Karnataka are facing mounting financial pressure. However, residents of Bengaluru have received a measure of relief, as private bus fares and hotel food prices will remain unchanged despite increasing operational costs.

Private bus operators in coastal districts such as Dakshina Kannada and Udupi have revised fares, citing higher diesel prices and maintenance expenses. The new fare structure came into effect on June 9.

In contrast, private bus operators in Bengaluru have decid-



ed not to increase ticket prices for the time being. According to representatives of the Bengaluru Private Bus Operators' Union, increasing fares now could further reduce passenger numbers and worsen financial losses. Operators pointed out that government welfare schemes have significantly

changed travel patterns in the city. The Shakti scheme provides free bus travel for women, while students are already benefiting from subsidised or free travel facilities. As a result, many commuters now prefer public transport over private buses.

"Diesel prices, maintenance costs, toll charges and taxes

have all gone up sharply. However, passenger numbers on private buses have declined. If we increase fares now, it may drive away even more commuters," said Dinesh, a private bus operator.

The hospitality sector has also announced temporary relief for consumers. The State Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Association has clarified that there will be no immediate increase in the prices of meals, snacks and other food items despite the recent rise in commercial LPG cylinder prices.

Commercial LPG cylinder rates were increased by Rs 46 this month, adding to the burden on hotels and restaurants. The industry has already ab-

sorbed similar increases in May and June, leading to higher operating costs. However, hoteliers have decided not to pass the additional burden on to customers for now.

Industry representatives said repeated price hikes could discourage customers and affect business. Keeping consumer interests in mind, hotel owners have chosen to maintain existing food prices despite the growing cost pressures.

While inflation continues to affect households across the state, the decision by Bengaluru's private transport operators and hotel industry has come as welcome news for citizens already struggling with rising living expenses.

Free Student Bus Pass Rollout Likely to Be Delayed Further

BENGALURU

The distribution of free bus passes for school and college students, announced by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, is likely to face further delays, with officials indicating that the scheme may not be implemented within this month as initially expected.

The free bus pass initiative was among the key announcements made during the first Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister after assuming office. The scheme aims to provide free travel for students across the state and reduce the financial burden on families.

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh recently reviewed preparations for implementing the programme and held discussions with department officials regarding logistics, estimated expenditure and the number of beneficiaries expected to be covered.

According to officials, large-scale printing and distribution of bus passes will require additional time. The government is assessing operational requirements before placing the proposal before the Cabinet for final approval and allocation of funds.

Speaking about the initiative, the minister said the government remains committed to implementing the scheme but acknowledged that issuing such a large number of passes involves considerable planning and administrative work.

Authorities estimate that nearly 10 lakh students are likely to benefit from the programme. The annual expenditure on the scheme is expected to be between Rs 1,500 crore and Rs 1,800 crore, making it one of the major welfare initiatives proposed by the government.

Court Restrains Publication of Defamatory Content against Zameer Ahmed

BENGALURU

The 57th Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge's Court (CCH-58), Mayo Hall, Bengaluru, has issued an interim restraining order prohibiting the publication and circulation of any defamatory content against former minister Zameer Ahmed Khan in connection with the Davangere by-election matter.

The court directed that no defamatory news reports, articles, audio clips, videos, photographs or other material that could harm Khan's reputation be disseminated through any medium.

The restriction covers print and electronic media, social networking platforms, digital and online media, web portals,

WhatsApp and other social media channels. The court has specifically barred the uploading, posting, sharing and reposting of such content until further orders. The interim injunction was issued to prevent the spread of material that may adversely affect the former minister's honour and public image. The order will remain in force pending further proceedings before the court.

Any violation of the court's directions could attract legal consequences under applicable laws. The order seeks to safeguard the reputation of the former minister while the matter relating to the Davangere by-election remains under judicial consideration.

KUWJ Expresses Gratitude to Siddaramaiah for Supporting Journalists' Welfare

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Working Journalists' Association (KUWJ) has thanked former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for his continued support towards journalists' welfare and for addressing several long-pending demands during his tenure.

KUWJ State President Shivanand Tagaduru met Siddaramaiah at his residence, Kaveri, and presented him with a bouquet as a gesture of appreciation. During the meeting, Tagaduru recalled that Siddaramaiah had consistently listened to journalists' concerns and taken steps to address them through the government machinery.

He highlighted that during



the 38th State Journalists' Conference held in Davangere, Siddaramaiah announced a free bus pass scheme for rural journalists. At the 39th State Conference in Tumakuru, he also introduced the Chief Minister's Health Sanjeevini Scheme for journalists and ensured its implementation.

Vinay Mruthyunjaya Nominated to ICAI Insolvency, Valuation Board Committee

BENGALURU

Chartered Accountant and Insolvency Professional Vinay Mruthyunjaya has been nominated as a member of the Insolvency, Bankruptcy and Valuation Board Committee of the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for 2026-27.

The nomination was made by ICAI President CA Prasan Kumar D. in recognition of Mruthyunjaya's extensive experience and contributions to insolvency, restructuring, valuation and corporate advisory services.

A Bengaluru-based professional with more than 35 years of experience, Mruthyunjaya is the founding partner of In-

corp Restructuring Services LLP, the first Insolvency Professional Entity established in Karnataka and recognised by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

Established after the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the firm focuses on restructuring, turnaround management and insolvency resolution. Over the years, it has expanded its presence across the country and currently has 14 partners. The firm has handled several high-value Corporate Insolvency Resolution Processes (CIRPs), including major real-estate cases involving admitted claims ex-



ceeding Rs 16,000 crore and more than 1,500 homebuyers.

As a member of the committee, Mruthyunjaya will contribute to policy initiatives, professional standards, capacity building and the advancement of insolvency, bankruptcy and valuation practices in line with evolving regulatory requirements.

Expressing gratitude for the appointment, Mruthyunjaya thanked the ICAI leadership for its confidence in him and said he would work towards strengthening the profession and supporting the development of a robust insolvency and valuation framework in

India.

The Insolvency, Bankruptcy and Valuation Board Committee is a specialised ICAI body focused on professional excellence in insolvency, restructuring, bankruptcy and valuation. It works closely with regulators and government agencies to develop standards, encourage research, build professional capacity and align Indian practices with global benchmarks.

The committee is also expected to focus on implementation of amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, promote valuation standards and collaborate with key institutions to strengthen India's corporate and financial ecosystem.

Govt Pursuing Legal Reforms for Apartment Communities: N.A. Haris



BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is taking steps to introduce legal reforms for apartment communities and residential complexes to improve governance and dispute resolution, Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) Chairman N.A. Haris said.

Speaking at Proprietas 2.0, a legal awareness and stakeholder dialogue organised by Next Legal Services in collaboration with the Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) at St. Joseph's Law College, Haris said Bengaluru's rapidly growing urban population requires modern laws and efficient systems to address emerging challenges.

He noted that the government is working on reforms aimed at strengthening coordination among apartment owners, builders and various government departments. The focus is on creating transparent, technology-driven and citizen-friendly administrative mechanisms.

Haris said the BDA has already introduced several technology-based initiatives to improve transparency and service delivery. Dedicated grievance redressal systems and mediation centres have also been established to facilitate faster settlement of disputes. Regular online interactions with citizens are being conducted to address public concerns and improve responsiveness.

BAF President Satish B. Mallaya welcomed the proposed reforms and said apartment owners' associations have submitted recommendations to the government after consultations with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The event was attended by legal experts, retired judges, RERA officials, builders, apartment association representatives and industry stakeholders. Discussions focused on apartment governance, dispute resolution mechanisms, regulatory reforms and sustainable urban living in Bengaluru.

Residents raise green cover concerns over proposed Indiranagar elevated corridor

BENGALURU

The proposed elevated corridor connecting Old Madras Road and Silk Board has sparked concerns among residents of Indiranagar, who fear the project could impact the locality's green cover, pedestrian-friendly streets and overall character.

According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the Rs 1,300-crore project will pass through Swami Vivekananda Metro Station, the 80-Foot Road, CMH Road and 100-Foot Road in Indiranagar before extending towards Madivala. The 11.62-km corridor is being developed by Bena-

luru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B- SMILE) as part of a larger plan to improve connectivity between East and South Bengaluru. The elevated corridor is among 11 new flyover projects approved by the state government in April. It is expected to connect with the under-construction Ejipura flyover and eventually integrate with the double-decker Metro corridor near Silk Board.

However, citizen groups have questioned the alignment proposed in the DPR. Members of the 'I Change Indiranagar' initiative have urged authorities to seek public consultation before finalising the project.

QUICK READ

3-day TT tournament in Mysuru

Mysuru

Mysore District Table Tennis Association will conduct LIC CUP Karnataka State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament-2026 at Mysore University Gymnasium Hall, Maharaja College Grounds, Mysore from 18th to 21st June 2026 Events U-11/U-13/U-15/U-17/U-19 in Boys and Girls Category along with Men's & Women's Singles Entries may be registered through the online link <https://karnatakatabletennis.in/> and submit their entries. last date for submitting entries is June 14. More details contact Rohit 94487 50558.

Interruption in power supply today

Mysuru

Owing to first-quarter maintenance works at the 66/11 KV KHB and 66/11 KV DMG Halli power distribution centres under the V.V. Mohalla Division, power supply will be interrupted on June 10 from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Areas under 66/11 KV KHB Distribution Centre Hootagalli KHB Colony, Vijayanagar 4th Stage C Block, Hunsur Main Road, Hinkal, Mahalakshmi Layout, Nanneshwara Nagar, Aditya Layout, Kaveri Layout, Gokuldas Industries, Honda Showroom, Titan Wall Industries, Gohalli, Jatti-hundi, K. Hemmanahalli, Ganagarahundi, Sahukarahundi, Madagalli, Basavanapura, areas around Maratikyathanahalli Gate, Belavadi and surrounding localities.

Areas under 66/11 KV DMG Halli Distribution Centre DMG Halli, Mariyanahundi, Kattehundi, Manikyapura, Karakanahalli, Madalli, Shettinayakanahalli, Nuggehalli, Kumara-beedu, Beerihundi, Kamarahalli village, Doddahattihundi and surrounding villages, according to Executive Engineer of CESC, V.V. Mohalla Division.

Commissioning of new 66 KV transmission line: Advisory issued

Mysuru

A new 66/11 KV sub-station and 66 KV double-circuit transmission line have been constructed at Vasanthanagar in Mysuru city. The line is proposed to be commissioned on any day after June 30. The transmission line extends approximately 0.08 km and is connected to the existing 66 KV Vajamangala-Devanur (Mysuru) transmission line, supplying power to the newly established 66/11 KV Vasanthanagar distribution centre. The public has been warned against climbing towers, touching conductors, tying cattle to towers, planting trees beneath them, throwing ropes or metallic objects onto the structures, or flying kites nearby, as these actions pose serious risks to life and property. KPTCL officials have reiterated that the corporation will not be liable for any accidents resulting from violation of these safety guidelines.

Bengaluru to host RISE 2026 national innovation conference

The conference will unite researchers, industries, startups and policymakers to promote innovation-driven growth and technological self-reliance

MYSURU

A two-day national conference titled Research, Industry, Startup and Entrepreneurship (RISE)-2026 will be held in Bengaluru on June 13 and 14 with the objective of accelerating economic growth, technology transfer and innovation-driven entrepreneurship in the country.

Addressing a press conference in Mysuru on Tuesday, CFTRI Director Dr. Giridhar Parvatam said the summit is being jointly organized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI). The event will take place at the HAL



VM Ghatage Convention Centre in Bengaluru. Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the conference. CSIR Director General and DSIR Secretary Dr. N. Kalaiselvi will participate as the guest of honour. The valedictory function on June 14 will be attended by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and

MP Tejasvi Surya.

The conference will be held under the theme "Innovation and Entrepreneurship-Driven Growth for Viksit Bharat 2047." It aims to bring together research institutions, industries, startups, academic organisations, policymakers, investors and students on a common platform to promote innovation-led economic development and technological

self-reliance.

Dr. Parvatam said the summit is being organised around the vision of "Whole Government, Whole Society, Whole Science and Whole Innovation." It reflects India's commitment to transforming scientific research into commercially viable products, technologies and enterprises. Strengthening collaboration among laboratories, universities, industries and startups is expected to play a key role in building a robust innovation ecosystem aligned with the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047.

More than 100 organisations, including CSIR, ISRO, DST, DBT, ICAR and ICMR, along with startups, MSMEs and technology developers, will showcase cutting-edge innovations and market-ready technol-

ogies. The summit will also serve as a platform for technology transfer, commercialisation, industry partnerships, investment networking and entrepreneurial growth.

Several thematic sessions will be conducted on aerospace technologies for national development, science communication, artificial intelligence from societal and ethical perspectives, agri-food innovation pathways from laboratory to market, startup development, venture capital, investment ecosystems and aligning academic research with industry requirements.

Scientists Prof. R.S. Mache, Dr. Vikas Singh Chauhan, Dr. A.A. Inamdar, Raghunandan M.V., Dr. Ramprasad T.R., Dr. Suhas R.

Cloth merchant kills family, dies by suicide

MANDYA

A shocking incident of murder and suicide was reported from Nehru Nagar in Mandya, where a cloth merchant allegedly killed his wife and son before ending his own life due to financial stress and business losses.

The deceased were identified as Prabhakar, his wife Jyoti and their son Santosh. According to police, Prabhakar first strangled his wife and son at their rented house during the night. He later went to his cloth shop and died by suicide by hanging.

Santosh had got married only a month ago. Police said Santosh and his wife were sleeping in a separate room while Prabhakar and Jyoti slept in another room. In the morning, Santosh's wife discovered the bodies after going to wake up her mother-in-law. She reportedly told police that she did not hear any sounds during the night because a fan was running.

A successful placement drive 2026 held at VVSITI

MYSURU

Vidyavardhaka Sangha Industrial Training Institute (VVSITI), Mysuru, in association with TNS India Foundation and Rotary Club of Vijayanagar, Mysuru, successfully organized the Campus Placement Drive – 2026 at the VVCE Kempegowda Sports Complex.

The placement drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and representatives of several leading industries and organizations. The event provided a valuable platform for young job seekers to interact directly with employers and explore career opportunities across various sectors.

The programme was inaugurated in the presence of distinguished dignitaries. Vish-

wananda H.M., Technical Director – Procurement & Maintenance, MGM Forgings Bharat Private Limited, attended as the Chief Guest. The event was presided over by P Vishwanath, Secretary Vidyavardhaka Sangha, Mysuru. Other dignitaries present included, Ravishankar K.C., Deputy Director, Shrishaila Ramannavar, Treasurer, S. Shivalingaiah, Harisha, Rtn. Puttaraju B.M, Harisha M S and Harinakshi B.N., Principal, VVS ITI, Mysuru.

A major highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mitsubishi Diesel Engine aimed at strengthening industry-academia collaboration, enhancing skill development, and improving employment opportunities for students.

HUBBALLI

The Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation has made a strong start to the financial year by collecting ₹121 crore in property tax during April and May. The amount represents 37.33 percent of the annual collection target and reflects an encouraging response from property owners across the twin cities.

Despite the positive beginning, the civic body still faces the task of collecting the remaining 62.67 percent of the target during the next ten months. Officials are confident that sustained efforts and public cooperation will help achieve the goal before the end of the financial year.

Municipal corporation posts encouraging financial year performance

The corporation extended the 5% property tax rebate until June-end, urging residents and businesses to avail the benefit before the deadline

line.

According to civic records, the corporation has around 3.50 lakh properties under its jurisdiction. These include nearly 1.86 lakh residential properties, 38,000 commercial establishments and about 1.30 lakh vacant sites. However, officials believe the actual number of properties could be much higher.

To obtain accurate data, the corporation has launched a ₹24 crore GIS-based survey,

the first of its kind in the state. Around 75 percent of the work has already been completed, and door-to-door verification is currently underway. The survey is expected to help identify unassessed properties and improve tax collection efficiency.

Municipal Commissioner Dr. Rudresh Ghali said the corporation is closely monitoring tax defaulters and conducting special drives in industrial and commercial areas. He noted that daily collections range between ₹50 lakh and ₹60 lakh and expressed confidence that the annual target will be achieved if the present momentum continues steadily throughout this year.

Parameshwara praised Venkataramanappa's honesty and dedication, saying he championed common people's interests and left a lasting public legacy

DCM Parameshwara pays tribute to veteran people's leader

PAVAGADA

Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara paid tribute to former minister Venkataramanappa and described him as a leader deeply committed to public welfare. He said the veteran politician's death was a major loss not only to Pavagada taluk but also to the entire state.

Speaking at the Vaikuntha Samaradhana held in Hanumanthanahalli of Y.N. Hosakote hobli, Parameshwara offered condolences to the bereaved family and paid floral respects to Venkataramanappa's portrait. He recalled their long association and said they had worked together as legislators and ministers, which strengthened their friendship over the years.

Parameshwara praised Venkataramanappa for his sim-



plicity, honesty and dedication to serving ordinary people. He said the late leader always stood for the interests of common citizens and remained a strong voice for public concerns throughout his political career. He added that his contributions to society and public life would be remembered for a long time.

Expressing sorrow over the loss, Parameshwara said the state had lost a respected leader who worked tirelessly for the welfare of the people.

He prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and wished strength for the family and supporters to overcome their grief.

The programme was attended by religious leaders, elected representatives, former legislators and a large number of admirers.

Special prayers were offered for the departed leader, and speakers remembered his service, leadership and lasting impact on the community and public life.

SWR Mysuru Division observed International Level Crossing Awareness Day

MYSURU

South Western Railway, Mysuru Division, observed International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) – 2026 on Tuesday, in accordance with the directives of the Railway Board.

The observance aimed to create awareness among road users about safe practices at level crossings and to prevent accidents caused by negligence and unsafe crossing habits.

As part of the campaign, a special awareness programme was organized at Level Crossing Gate No. 04 between Mysuru and Ashokapuram Railway Stations at 8:45 am. The programme was led by Divisional Railway Manager, Mysuru Division, Mudit Mittal, along with Additional Divisional Railway Manager Shammam Hameed and other senior officers of the division.

The officers inspected the level crossing and interacted with road users to spread

awareness on the importance of adhering to safety rules while crossing railway tracks.

Addressing the gathering, the DRM emphasized that safety at level crossings is a shared responsibility. The road users must exercise caution and strictly follow safety regulations while approaching and crossing railway level crossings. People should always stop, look, and listen before crossing, never attempt to cross when the gate is closed or warning signals are operating, avoid rushing through the crossing, refrain from using mobile phones or other distractions, follow the instructions of gatekeepers and railway staff, and use only authorized level crossings instead of trespassing across railway tracks.

The awareness campaign featured the distribution of safety pamphlets, interactive sessions with road users, and live demonstrations on safe crossing practices.

VVCE Students Shine on Global Stage with Cutting-Edge AI Research

MYSURU

Students of Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering (VVCE), Mysuru, have achieved international recognition as their research paper has been accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Industrial Digital Twins for Smart Manufacturing (ICIDTSM 2026), organized by IIT Madras.

The paper, titled "A Hybrid Contextual Reasoning Architecture for Fully Offline Conversational AI on Resource-Constrained Edge Devices", presents a novel system called PRISM (Priority Ranked Inference with Sensor Memory).

The system enables advanced conversational AI to run entirely offline on low-cost hardware such as the Raspberry Pi 4B with only 4 GB RAM, without requiring any internet or cloud connectivity. This makes intelligent AI more accessible, private, and reliable, especially in remote and connectivity-limited environments.

The research was carried out by undergraduate students Karthik M, Kiran A V, Om M Doddamani, Kishor A V, and Jeevan Nullipady Mallaya. The project reflects several months of dedicated learning, experimentation, and teamwork. The team expressed sincere gratitude to their guide, Dr. A. B. Rajendra, for his constant encouragement and valuable guidance. They also thanked Dr. Pooja M R, Head of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, and Dr. Preema N S, Head of the Department of Information Science & Engineering, for their support.

“None helped Suraj Hegde, Grandson of former CM Devaraj Urs”

MYSURU

Expressing deep sorrow over the demise of Suraj Hegde, Mysuru Rural District Congress Committee President Dr. B.J. Vijay Kumar said it was a great tragedy that no one came forward to support Suraj Hegde, the grandson of former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs, who had provided opportunities for hundreds of people to grow in public life.

Speaking at a condolence meeting held at the Congress Bhavan in the city on Tuesday, Vijay Kumar said that Devaraj Urs was a statesman who practiced politics in a



manner that became a model for both the state and the nation. Many politicians who had benefited from his support and guidance and later rose to positions of power could have helped Suraj Heg-

de secure a place in the Legislative Assembly if they had chosen to do so. They could not repay the debt they owed to his grandfather. At the very least, they could have honoured that legacy by helping

his grandson.

Recalling his close association with Suraj Hegde, Vijay Kumar said that both of them were aspirants for the Congress ticket during the 2019 elections. When they met Siddaramaiah seeking the party ticket, they jointly told him that the ticket could be given to either one of them, as they had mutual understanding and agreement. Unfortunately, neither of them got the ticket and it was eventually given to Vijay Shankar.

He further expressed concern over the increasing number of deaths among

dedicated Congress workers. Over the past ten years, nearly 50 Congress workers at the city and rural levels have passed away. Even now, many party workers are suffering from various health problems and losing their lives. In view of this, the party should establish an emergency fund to support such workers and their families.

City Congress President R. Murthy, General Secretary Shivanna, former Mayor Pushpalatha Chikkanna, Modamani, and several other party leaders and workers were present.

QUICK READ



Water supply disruption planned in Mandya city

CH NEWS, Mandya Maintenance work at the 66/11 KV power substation in Srirangapatna taluk, which supplies electricity to the Mandya Nagar water supply system, will be carried out by CE SC on June 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. Due to this, water supply will be disrupted in Mandya on June 11 and 12. An official from Mandya sub-division said residents should cooperate and store water in advance. Assistant Executive Engineer of Mandya sub-division stated in a release that the maintenance is necessary for smooth functioning of the water supply system and requested public understanding during the temporary inconvenience.

Direct interview job drive announced in Mandya

CH NEWS, Mandya The Mandya District Employment Exchange Office, in association with SK Safety Wing Pvt Ltd, ICICI and Incast Missions, has organized a direct interview on June 12 at 10 am at the District Employment Exchange Office in Mandya. Vacancies include Warehouse Associates for picking, packing, scanning, sorting and stowing, along with roles like relationship manager, welder and fitter. Candidates who have passed SSLC, PUC, ITI in welder or fitter trades, or any degree, and aged between 18 and 50 years, can attend with resume. Drive aims to provide local job opportunities widely. For more information contact 916464 2684, 9113500761, 91138 75775 and 9741939716.

Govt extends housing scheme deadline for urban applicants

CH NEWS, Chitradurga The online application deadline for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban housing scheme for 2025-26 has been extended till June 30. Eligible groups include single women, senior citizens, disabled persons, transgender people, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minorities. Sanitation workers, street vendors, Vishwakarma scheme workers, Anganwadi workers, construction workers and migrant families can also apply. Residents of Hiriyur Municipal Corporation should apply online at pmayurban.gov.in. They can also visit Ashraya/Vasati Branch for guidance. Officials advised applicants to complete submissions carefully and use the extended time for benefits.

FUEL-PRICE-BURDEN

LPG price hike sparks concern in Srinivasapur

SRINIVASPUR

The price of domestic LPG cylinder has risen again in Srinivasapur reaching ₹955 for a 14.2-kg refill creating worry among residents who depend on it for daily cooking. The increase comes at a time when the cost of essential commodities is already high across the country adding pressure on household budgets and daily spending for ordinary families. Residents say rising prices of fuel, food items, cooking gas, fertilizers and other essentials have made it diffi-

DOMESTIC LPG CYLINDER PRICE RISES AGAIN: REACHES ₹955

The price of domestic LPG cylinder has risen increased again.

NEW PRICE ₹ 955 PER 14.2 KG CYLINDER

cult to manage monthly expenses and maintain financial stability. Shabbir Ahmed a local minority leader said the LPG price hike will heavily affect workers farmers daily wage earners and middle-class families already struggling with

inflation. He also said rising costs of petrol diesel cooking gas seeds fertilizers and other farm inputs are increasing production costs and reducing profits for farmers in rural areas. He urged the Central Government to control inflation stabilize prices and introduce measures to reduce the financial burden on citizens across the country. Meanwhile public dissatisfaction is growing as residents continue to demand strong action to ensure price stability and protect household incomes from rising costs. The continu-

ous rise in LPG prices has triggered widespread concern among households in Srinivasapur where many families depend on government-regulated cooking gas for their daily needs. Local residents believe that if prices keep increasing it will become harder for low-income groups to manage basic cooking expenses. Many have requested authorities to take quick action and provide relief measures as inflation continues to affect both urban and rural communities and put additional stress on everyday life.

DC directed review of NITK's Hamilton Circle redesign and fast-tracked Pumpwell bus stand land allocation to ease traffic and improve transport

Strict action planned to improve traffic flow in Mangaluru

MANGALURU

Deputy Commissioner Darshan H V has directed the city corporation and police department to jointly inspect junctions and roundabouts and take immediate steps to ensure smooth traffic movement across the district. He gave the instructions while chairing the District Road Safety Committee meeting held at the District Commissioner's office on Tuesday. Officials said complaints have increased about traffic congestion due to illegal parking, roadside encroachments and street vending at major junctions and roads in the city. The Deputy Commissioner said all concerned departments including urban local bodies, RTO and police must coordinate and take strict action to improve traffic flow. National Highways Author-



ity of India Project Director Abdullah Javid Azmi said several safety measures including signals, zebra crossings and speed control systems have been introduced on key highway stretches. He added that divider openings causing accidents have been closed at several locations and road widening and underpass works are progressing in key areas including Baikampady and Nanthur. Officials also raised concerns about encroachments at major junctions like Kallapur, Jeppinamogaru and Thokkottu and demanded immediate clearance action. The issue of fish truck water leakage causing bad smell and road pollu-

tion was also discussed and officials suggested building treatment tanks at entry points like Talapady and Mulki to solve the problem. The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to review scientific redesign proposals for Hamilton Circle submitted by NITK and take necessary action. He also directed that bus stand land allocation at Pumpwell be completed quickly to ease city traffic and improve public transport operations. Police officials reported strict enforcement action including over 1800 drunk driving cases and suspension of 384 driving licenses due to violations and accidents in the district. Authorities said continuous coordination between departments is essential to reduce accidents and ensure safer and smoother traffic movement across Mangaluru city.

Ingaladal school hosts unity workshop for students

CHITRADURGA

A National Unity Workshop 2026-27 was inaugurated at Sanchalappa Nayak High School in Ingaladal village near Chitradurga for students to promote unity and national integration. He said India is a country of unity in diversity and people should follow the mantra of unity beyond caste and religion. He also said learning language culture and heritage helps children feel proud of being Indians. Dr B M Gurunath, Assistant Director of Kannada and Culture Department, presided and said communal tensions are a concern and unity programs

are important. He appreciated the workshop for teaching rural students nationalism and unity. Headmaster G P Anand Kumar said reading works of poets saints and sages builds emotional unity and national pride among students. He said this helps strengthen self respect and feeling of my country my people. K P A A Ganeshaiah conducted practical training for students on patriotic songs including the national anthem and other compositions. He trained them on works of Kuvempu Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and explained their national importance.

S K Mallikarjun was felicitated by Rangasaurabha Kala Sangha for his service and his promotion in KFCSC. He had earlier served in Food Department and Kannada and Culture Department as Assistant Director. Teachers and guests appreciated the program for promoting unity among students in rural areas. Speakers said such workshops help reduce communal feelings and build national harmony in society. It was noted that students actively participated in prayer and cultural activities and organizers said such programs will continue to strengthen unity awareness and patriotism among young learners.

Nav Nirman Sena alleges municipal corruption scandal

KOPPAL

Leaders of Karnataka Nav Nirman Sena alleged large scale corruption in Koppal City Municipal Council and demanded a detailed investigation from the government. District unit members staged a protest and submitted documents to the Additional District Collector alleging misuse of funds in several municipal works. Officials said over phone that if a formal complaint with documents is submitted, ac-

tion will be taken against those responsible and an effort will be made to recover the misused money and ensure punishment for the guilty persons. The Additional District Collector also assured that the matter would be discussed with the District Collector and suitable steps would be taken soon. The organization said that the response from officials has given them confidence in their fight against corruption and their aim is to stop misuse of public tax money in the city. They

further alleged that irregularities have taken place in hundreds of municipal works and demanded strict legal action against all those involved. The leaders warned that if action is not taken, they will intensify the agitation in the coming days and stage protests in front of the municipal council office. They urged the government to verify all records and ensure justice to the public, also appeals for transparent inquiry and immediate action to protect public funds and maintain trust.

Chief Justice to launch plantation programme

Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru will launch a five crore sapling drive at Muddenahalli on June 13 for environment protection

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru will launch a five crore sapling plantation programme on June 13 at Sathya Sai village in Muddenahalli as part of World Environment Day activities. District Principal Judge T P Ramalingegowda said the large scale tree plantation drive is being organised by

the State Legal Services Authority along with the District Administration and partner institutions with the aim of environmental protection. He said the programme reflects the message that protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility and it will officially begin in Chikkaballapura district. Officials said the event will also be attended by senior judges and members of the



State Legal Services Authority including H Shashidhar Shetty along with other dignitaries. As part of the initiative, five lakh saplings will be

planted in Chikkaballapura district this year and citizens have been urged to protect and nurture the planted trees. The District Legal Services Authority also announced that court proceedings in Manchenahalli and Chelur will function in rented buildings twice a week until permanent court infrastructure is completed. Officials said land identification for new court buildings

is under progress and steps are being taken to strengthen judicial facilities in the district. They also informed that new judges have been appointed to Chintamani and Gudibande courts and will assume duty from June 15 to clear pending cases faster. A Bruhat Lok Adalat will be held on July 11 across all courts in the district where citizens are encouraged to settle disputes through compro-

mise. Officials said more than one lakh twelve thousand cases have already been resolved through earlier Lok Adalats and around sixteen thousand cases are ready for the upcoming session. District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary B Shilpa was also present at the briefing and supported the appeal for public participation in legal awareness and environmental initiatives.

Garbage dumps turned into colorful art sites

DODDABALLAPUR

The Doddaballapur Municipality has started turning garbage dump sites into art spaces to discourage people from littering. This step aims to improve city cleanliness and create awareness about proper waste disposal among residents. Earlier, garbage was dumped on roadsides across the city, creating more than one hundred black spots and harming its beauty. The municipality with support from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements has converted over forty such spots into attractive art sites. These locations now feature rangoli designs and artwork made from waste materials like tyres and plastic buckets to spread



awareness. Officials say that under new solid waste rules households are required to separate wet dry sanitary and special waste for collection. Authorities have also imposed fines on households that fail to hand over waste to collection vehicles regularly to improve compliance. Local leaders say migration has increased the challenge as some residents do not take responsibility for maintaining cleanliness in neighborhoods. Officials and residents alike

are being urged to cooperate and keep the city clean for better health and environment. Awareness drives wall paintings and community programmes are being organised in several wards to educate citizens about waste segregation and responsible disposal habits. After conversion of many black spots into art areas officials report that dumping has reduced significantly in those locations over the past few weeks. Residents are now urged to continue supporting the municipality by avoiding littering and using garbage collection vehicles so that the city remains clean healthy and visually appealing for all people living in Doddaballapur in the long run.

Mandya achieves 96.59 percent voter mapping

MANDYA

District Collector Dr Kumar said that the Special Comprehensive Revision of the electoral roll is being carried out across the state and instructed officials to complete pending mapping work soon in Mandya district. He said the mapping work has already reached 96.59 percent progress and directed officials to ensure full completion without delay in a transparent and systematic manner. He spoke at a review meeting held at the District Collector's office regarding electoral roll revision and preparations for Gram Panchayat elections 2026. The Collector instructed Booth Level Officers to conduct door to door visits and collect voter information carefully without any errors and warned that strict action will be taken against absent or negligent officials. He said training programmes have already been arranged for booth level staff and they must report properly on the work completed during training sessions. He added that the main aim of the revision is to ensure no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible name is included in



the voter list. He noted that there is some public confusion about the process and officials must clearly explain its purpose and remove misconceptions among citizens. He said the revision includes verification of draft voter lists removal of deceased and shifted voters and inclusion of new eligible voters in the system. Voters were asked to fill prescribed forms and submit them during house visits by booth level officers and can also upload forms online for convenience. Deputy Collector BC Sivanandamurthy instructed officials to distribute duplicate census forms during house visits and guide citizens in filling them correctly. Senior officials including Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary P Lakshmi Sub Divisional Officer Shivamurthy and Tahsildars from all taluks attended the meeting and reviewed the progress of the revision process in detail for smooth implementation.

MLA Harish Gowda launches pipeline project to revive lakes

HUNSUR

Somanahalli lake in Hunsur taluk has come alive again after remaining dry for three years as major pipeline works have begun under a new government funded project led by MLA G D Harish Gowda. The project costing three crore rupees aims to restore water supply to Somanahalli and Maradur lakes which had affected farming and groundwater levels in surrounding villages badly. Farmers in the region had stopped agricultural activities due to water shortage and the revival of the lake system has brought fresh hope for cultivation and rural life. Earlier attempts to fill four lakes failed due to repeated damage to pipelines but officials later approved a permanent solution using 2.5 kilometres of MS pipes. Speaking at the launch MLA Harish Gowda said restoring lakes is vital for farmers water security and improving groundwater levels across villages in the constituency. He added that several develop-



MLA Harish Gowda said lake restoration is vital for farmers' water security and groundwater, and also launched roads, drains, halls, and infrastructure development works

ment works including roads drains and community halls were also launched along with fresh grants for local infrastructure improvement. The MLA also expressed concern over delayed government funds due to guarantee schemes but said he would meet ministers and the Chief Minister to secure allocations for constituency development. Officials and local leaders

present at the event welcomed the project saying it would restore life to lakes and improve drinking water availability in the region. Local villagers in Somanahalli and nearby areas welcomed the start of the lake restoration work as it is expected to improve agriculture and drinking water supply. They said the project will help raise groundwater levels and bring back farming activities that had stopped for several years. Harish Gowda reiterated that development of the constituency remains his top priority and promised continued efforts to secure funds from the state government. He also said lakes are lifelines of rural communities and restoring them will ensure long term ecological balance and economic stability for farmers in the region. The MLA said he would continue working with officials, banks and departments to ensure timely completion of irrigation projects, better rural infrastructure and improved living conditions for farmers.

QUICK READ

Farmers invited for horticulture subsidy applications**Chikkaballapura**

Applications have been invited for subsidy support under horticulture and agriculture schemes in Chikkaballapura for the year 2026-27. Farmers can apply for many facilities including irrigation, storage, and plantation development. The last date for submission is June 22. Officials asked eligible farmers to apply on time. Farmers may receive support for shade nets, onion storage units, drip irrigation, fruit crops like mango, banana, papaya, pomegranate and grape under National Horticulture Mission. Applications should be submitted at the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture office in Gowribidanur.

Applications invited for Cooperative Management course**Mangaluru**

The Mangaluru-based Karnataka Institute of Co-operative Management has invited applications for its six-month Diploma in Cooperative Management course starting July 1. The program is offered in both regular and distance education modes. Candidates from Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Kasaragod districts, including Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe applicants as well as employees of cooperative institutions and banks, are eligible. The last date to apply is June 30. Minimum qualification required is SSLC. SC/ST students will receive a monthly stipend of ₹600, while other students will get ₹500. The curriculum includes cooperative management, credit and banking, laws, accounting, auditing and computer operations. The diploma is recognised for jobs in cooperative banks, milk unions and other cooperative institutions.

Applications open for National Disability Awards 2026-27**Mangaluru**

Applications have been invited for the National Awards for Persons with Disabilities for the year 2026-27, instituted by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The awards recognise outstanding contributions in areas such as empowerment, rehabilitation, education, skill development, employment generation, accessibility, research, innovation, sports, arts and literature. Applications can be collected from the Department for Empowerment of Differently Aabled and Senior Citizens at the Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat in Mangaluru. Completed applications must be submitted in English by July 25.

MLA Vedavyasa Kamath inaugurates new college facilities

MLA stressed clean toilets and safe drinking water for student health, praising MRPL's support for school infrastructure development

MANGALURU

MLA Vedavyasa Kamath inaugurated newly constructed boys' and girls' toilets, an overhead water tank, and a drinking water purification unit at the Government Pre-University College in Nalyapadavu, Shakthinagar.

The facilities have been developed under the MRPL Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative aimed at improving basic infrastructure and student welfare in educational institutions.

Speaking at the event, the



MLA said that essential amenities such as clean toilets and safe drinking water play a crucial role in maintaining student health, hygiene, and

overall learning conditions. He appreciated MRPL for responding positively to requests for infrastructure development and expressed

hope for continued collaboration in future projects.

Harish Rao, Manager of MRPL's CSR division, said the organisation remains committed to supporting community development and enhancing health and hygiene standards in educational institutions.

College Principal Jayananda N. Suvarna thanked MRPL and the MLA for providing modern sanitation facilities and a safe drinking water system on campus. He said the infrastructure would significantly benefit students and

staff.

The programme was attended by former corporators Vanitha Prasad and Shakeela Kava, school headmistress Sharada, Padavu Friends Club president Kushal Kumar, CBC member Ashok Nayak, SDMC president Kishore, entrepreneurs Vijay Shenoy and Prasad, senior teacher Dakshayini, lecturer Saraladevi, and others.

Senior lecturer Saraladevi P. compered the event, while high school headmaster Prashanth Kumar delivered the vote of thanks ANCHOR

Ten arrested in Channagiri gang rape case

DAVANAGERE

Police have arrested ten youths in connection with the gang rape of a 41-year-old woman in Channagiri taluk of Davanagere district. The incident reportedly took place on June 3 within the limits of Basava Town police station and came to light after the victim filed a complaint.

According to police, the woman was returning home after a quarrel with her husband when the accused approached her. The youths, who had gone out for pig hunting, allegedly offered her a cool drink after noticing that she was tired. They reportedly mixed alcohol in the drink and later took her to a nearby garden, where they sexually assaulted her through the night.

Voter list revision schedule announced in Yadgir

Voter mapping in the district is over 97%, covering most taluks, with 10.14 lakh of 10.5 lakh voters mapped and door-to-door verification ongoing

YADGIR

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Pandve Rahul announced the Special Comprehensive Revision schedule of the voter list issued by the Election Commission of India and appealed for public cooperation. He said the revision process will begin on June 20 and aims to prepare a transparent and accurate electoral roll across the district.

According to the schedule, form printing and training of officials will be conducted from June 20 to June 29. He

added that the house to house voter survey will be carried out from June 30 to July 29 across all taluks.

The draft voter list will be published on August 5, followed by a claims and objections period from August 5 to September 4. He said the final disposal of claims and objections will be completed by October 3 and the final voter list will be published on October 7. The eligibility cut off date for the revision has been fixed

as

October 1. The Deputy Commissioner informed that voter mapping work in the district has reached over ninety seven percent in most taluks with significant progress in Shorapur Shahapur Yadgir Gurmatkal Vadagera and Hunasagi. He said out of more than ten lakh fifty thousand voters in the district, over ten lakh fourteen thousand have already been mapped and the remaining work is in progress. He urged

booth level officials to ensure door to door verification and asked citizens to cooperate by providing accurate information during the survey.

He also said the objective of the revision is to ensure that no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible name is included in the final list. Officials including Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramesh Kolar and Assistant Commissioner Sridhar Gotur were present at the press conference and reviewed the progress of the revision exercise across the district for smooth implementation.

MLA urged regular water testing, reliable supply, and removal of stagnant water to prevent disease during monsoon season

MLA Mantar Gowda stresses monsoon preparedness in Kodagu district

MADIKERI

With monsoon rains intensifying across Kodagu district, MLA Dr Mantar Gowda has directed officials to strengthen disaster preparedness and ensure uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water in the region. He issued the instructions during a Task Force Committee Meeting held at the Madikeri Tahsildar office with participation from taluk level officers, PDOs, police and other departmental heads.

The MLA stressed that drinking water sources must be tested regularly and supply systems should not be allowed to fail during the rainy season under any circumstances. He warned that stagnant water in coconut shells, tyres and other waste materials should be removed quickly to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in both rural and urban areas.

Officials were instructed to clean canals and roadside drains so that rainwater flows smoothly and does not cause flooding in low lying localities.

Dr Mantar Gowda expressed concern over drinking water shortage in several villages and said the administration must treat the issue as a top priority without delay. He also directed officials to alert residents in landslide prone and flood affected areas and ensure timely evacuation if rainfall intensity increases in the coming days.

The MLA suggested setting up care centres with adequate food stock, medical support and basic facilities for displaced families during emergency situations. He asked departments to maintain coordination between revenue, police, forest, fire and public works teams to handle emergencies such as fallen trees and damaged electric poles.

Officials were told to share contact numbers of nodal officers and ensure communication systems remain active so that emergency responses can be carried out quickly.

The MLA also instructed gram panchayats to conduct local meetings and submit detailed reports on preparedness measures and safety arrangements in vulnerable regions. He emphasised protection of livestock and suggested setting up cattle care centres with sufficient fodder arrangements to support farmers during heavy rains.

School and hostel safety was also reviewed and officials were asked to check transportation arrangements for children travelling to educational institutions in rural areas. Municipal and taluk officials reported that drain cleaning, tree trimming and relocation awareness activities have already been initiated in several sensitive zones across Madikeri.

Bad roads in Bhalki taluk disrupt smooth traffic

BHALKI

While several roads in Bhalki taluk, including those in urban areas, are reported to be in good condition, many connecting and interior roads remain severely damaged, causing inconvenience to commuters and disrupting smooth traffic movement.

Key routes such as Telgaon village canal road to Talawada (M), Sompur and Atnoor, Davargao to Masimad, and Bidar-Bhalki main road connections to nearby villages including Dharajwadi, Kotgalyal-Nittur (B), and Valasang-pati to Beeri (K) have developed potholes and uneven surfaces. Residents say these stretches have become difficult to travel on daily.

Locals also highlighted that roads connecting areas such as the lecturer's colony main road to Shahunagar, the road to the Forest Range Office, and the Hanuman Bakery stretch towards Tukde Hospital are in poor condition, making commuting unsafe and uncomfortable.

Residents from Sompur and Atnoor said that small bridges on some routes get submerged during heavy rains, cutting off connectivity and causing major disruptions. They added that school buses, public



transport vehicles and two-wheelers regularly use these roads, increasing the risk of accidents.

Villagers from Davargao and Masimad said commuters are forced to navigate potholes and loose gravel, leading to frequent skidding incidents and minor injuries, especially among two-wheeler riders.

In several urban pockets, residents also pointed out issues caused by repeated digging for water pipeline connections, which has left uneven surfaces and water stagnation, resulting in foul smell and mosquito breeding.

Locals urged authorities to take up immediate repair and reconstruction works, stressing that better road infrastructure is essential for safer travel, improved trade, and overall development of both rural and urban areas in the taluk.

MLA Daddal orders adequate seed supply for farmers

RAICHUR

MLA Basanagouda Daddal has directed officials of the Agriculture Department to ensure timely availability and proper distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers during the ongoing monsoon season. He stressed that any delay or shortage in supply could seriously affect agricultural activities and the livelihood of farmers in the region.

He was speaking at a review meeting held at the Rural MLA office hall in Raichur, where preparations for the kharif season and the availability of agricultural inputs were discussed in detail with departmental officials.

The MLA instructed that Agriculture Department staff must mandatorily be present at all Raitha Samparka Kendras across every hobli in the taluk. He warned that absenteeism or failure to respond to farmers' queries would be viewed seriously and could lead to recommendations for suspension.

Daddal emphasized that all Raitha Samparka Kendras should maintain sufficient stock of quality seeds and fertilizers, especially as the monsoon has already set in.

SUNDAYS-ON-CYCLE

Mangaluru cyclists ride for sustainability on World Bicycle Day

MANGALURU

The city witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of cycling lovers who came together to mark World Bicycle Day through the ongoing "Sundays on Cycle" campaign, turning a routine Sunday into a message of sustainability and community wellness.

The event began early on June 7 at Mangala Stadium, where participants assembled despite rain-soaked conditions. The ride was organised by the Mangalore



Cycling Club in coordination with MY Bharat Dakshina Kannada, with support from the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports and the National Ser-

vice Scheme.

Before the ride commenced, participants attended a brief interaction where officials highlighted the importance of cycling in im-

proving personal fitness while also contributing to reduced urban pollution and environmental protection.

Dignitaries exchanged tokens of appreciation with organisers before the group set off together through the city's damp Sunday streets. The ride symbolised a collective commitment to cleaner mobility and stronger community engagement.

MY Bharat representatives linked the initiative to broader national goals, including youth skill development and the promotion of

healthier lifestyles. They emphasized that cycling should be viewed not just as a recreational activity, but as a sustainable mode of transport that supports environmental conservation.

Organisers from the Mangalore Cycling Club said the participation reflected growing awareness among citizens about climate-friendly practices. Many cyclists expressed interest in continuing group rides regularly, describing the experience as both refreshing and motivating.

Medical Students Stage Street Play to Promote Heart Health Awareness

BALLARI

As part of the National Surgeons' Week celebrations, a meaningful street play focusing on heart health awareness was staged on Tuesday in front of the Emergency Department of the Ballari Medical College and Research Centre (BMCRC).

The programme was organised by the Ballari chapter of the Karnataka State Chapter of the Association of Surgeons of India (KSCASI) with the objective of educating the public about the importance of maintaining good heart health and preventing cardiovascular dis-

eases.

The street play was performed by BMCRC interns and first- and second-year MBBS students, who effectively conveyed messages on healthy lifestyle practices, early detection of heart-related ailments, and the importance of timely medical intervention.

Their performance drew the attention of patients, attendants and members of the public visiting the hospital. Senior doctors present at the event appreciated the students for their social commitment and efforts in promoting public health awareness.

QUICK READ



NGT Orders Probe Into Noida Groundwater Misuse

New Delhi
The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Uttar Pradesh Ground Water Department to investigate allegations of illegal groundwater extraction by private builders, industries, and other entities in Noida and Greater Noida. The tribunal instructed authorities to take corrective and punitive action if any violations are found. The order was issued by a Bench comprising Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Dr. Afroz Ahmad while disposing of a petition filed by environmental conservationist Vikrant Tongad through advocate Akash Vashishtha. The case raised concerns over unauthorised use of groundwater in the region.

Delhi Court Rejects NEET Leak Accused's Bail

New Delhi
A Delhi court on Tuesday rejected the bail plea of Manisha Waghmare, an accused in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case being investigated by the CBI. The defence argued that Waghmare, an education counsellor, received Rs 3.5 lakh through a gift deed linked to ancestral property and that no incriminating material was found during searches at her home. Opposing bail, the CBI alleged she actively helped circulate leaked exam questions for money and cited statements from candidates who claimed they paid her for access to the paper.

Six Killed In Jalgaon Road Mishap Tragedy

Jalgaon
Six people were killed and one person was seriously injured after a speeding car collided head-on with a motorcycle near Londhe Phata in Amalner, Jalgaon district, Maharashtra. The accident occurred around 7 a.m. when a family travelling from Gujarat to attend an engagement ceremony met with the tragedy. After the collision, the motorcycle crashed into an oncoming bus. The deceased were identified as Nandlal Mahajan, Anita Mahajan, Suresh Mahajan, Nirmala Mahajan, Nilesh Tawade and Falguni Bhoi. Car driver Aditya Mahajan suffered severe leg fractures and was admitted to a private hospital.

OPPOSITION CRITICISES CUT IN UJJWALA LPG SUBSIDIES

NEW DELHI
Opposition parties on Tuesday criticised the Centre's reported decision to reduce the number of subsidised LPG cylinder refills available under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from nine per year to four. Leaders from the Congress and RJD said the move would place an additional burden on poor and middle-class families. Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit alleged that the reduction reflected the government's inability to continue welfare support at earlier levels. He claimed that previous governments had provided higher levels of subsidy and argued that support for at least six to nine cylinders annually should have been maintained. Dikshit also questioned the govern-

Modi Surpasses Nehru With Security-Focused Governance Legacy

Narendra Modi will become the country's longest-serving elected Prime Minister

NEW DELHI

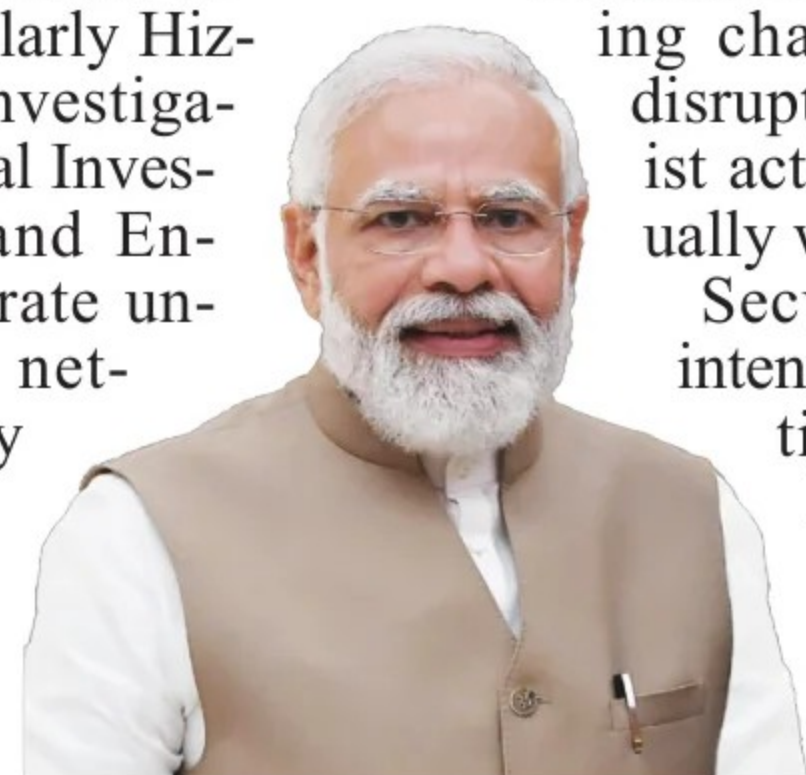
National security reforms and anti-terror measures have remained central to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance journey. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will complete 4,399 consecutive days in office on June 10, surpassing the record of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who served 4,398 continuous days. Modi, who first took oath on May 26, 2014, will become the country's longest-serving

elected Prime Minister. Over the past 12 years, the Modi government has introduced several major policy changes, with national security emerging as one of its key focus areas. During this period, security agencies dismantled home-grown terror networks, including the Indian Mujahideen. After reducing the threat from domestic terror groups, the government shifted its attention towards Jammu and Kashmir. Soon after taking office, Modi held a series of meet-

ings with senior security officials and stressed the need to provide operational freedom to security forces. Agencies intensified action against separatist groups and terror organisations, particularly Hizbul Mujahideen. Investigations by the National Investigation Agency and Enforcement Directorate uncovered financial networks allegedly supported through Pakistan-backed channels. According to of-

ficials, a portion of these funds was used to fuel violence, while large amounts were allegedly diverted for personal use by separatist leaders. As these funding channels were disrupted, separatist activities gradually weakened. Security forces intensified operations against leading terrorist commanders, including

Hizbul Mujahideen's Burhan Wani, who had become a key figure in militant recruitment. Following his death in an encounter, several senior militants were eliminated, weakening the outfit. Alongside these efforts, the government launched outreach programmes for local communities. The 2019 abrogation of Article 370 further reshaped Jammu and Kashmir, with officials crediting the move and reduced terror activity for improved security, higher tourism, and economic benefits.



Jaishankar Highlights Twelve Years Of Diplomatic Growth

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday highlighted major changes in India's foreign policy and the functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs over the last 12 years since Prime Minister Narendra Modi first took office in 2014. In a post on social media, Jaishankar said Indian diplomacy now works around the clock to serve the nation and support citizens abroad. He noted that Indians today travel overseas with greater confidence and pride due to improved services and stronger diplomatic engagement. According to the minister, Indian embassies and consulates have expanded their reach, with 44 missions now serving the needs of Indians living, studying, and working abroad. He said the government has strengthened support systems through wider use of the Indian Community Welfare Fund and digital plat-



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India's diplomacy has become more citizen-focused, expanding global outreach, welfare services, crisis response, and opportunities for Indians abroad over the past 12 years

forms that help citizens register complaints and provide feedback. Jaishankar also pointed to India's response during major international crises. He said the government successfully carried out evacuation operations and assistance efforts in

countries such as Ukraine, Israel, Afghanistan, and Sudan when Indian nationals faced difficult situations. The minister added that India has signed 21 mobility partnerships, helping citizens access employment opportunities abroad and become part of the global workforce. He also said passport services and document attestation procedures have become faster and more convenient for the public. Jaishankar further highlighted efforts to promote Indian culture, support students overseas, and improve access for Indian products and services in international markets. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi said the government's 12-year journey has been guided by trust, development, and public welfare. He stated that continued efforts in governance, infrastructure, and digital growth would help achieve the goal of a developed India in the years ahead.

Predictions of instability after the 2024 election have not materialised as the NDA remains united

NDA Remains Stable As Modi Government Completes Two

NEW DELHI

When the 2024 Lok Sabha election results were declared, many political observers questioned the future of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government because the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fell short of an absolute majority on its own. However, support from alliance partners ensured a comfortable majority for the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With backing from parties such as the Janata Dal (United) and the Telugu Desam Party, the NDA secured 293 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha. Despite concerns raised by critics at the time, the coalition has

remained intact and completed two years of its third term in office. Over this period, key allies have continued to express confidence in Modi's leadership. Leaders including Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary's predecessor Nitish Kumar, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda have publicly praised the Prime Minister's governance and political achievements. Deve Gowda recently noted that Modi becoming India's longest continuously serving democratically elected Prime Minister reflects the strength and growth of Indian democra-

cy. He also credited Modi with protecting national interests and maintaining public support over a long period. The veteran leader observed that India's political environment has become far more competitive and diverse compared to earlier decades. He pointed out that leaders like Modi rose to national prominence without political dynasties or inherited advantages. Naidu said Modi's leadership has boosted national confidence and cultural pride, calling it a significant period for India. The NDA government has remained stable, with allies united and several key economic, social, and constitutional bills passed in Parliament.

Assam Hosts EU Delegation To Strengthen Trade Ties

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met a high-level European Union delegation, known as "Team Europe," to discuss ways to strengthen trade, investment, and economic cooperation between Northeast India and European countries. The delegation was led by Herve Delphin and included ambassadors, senior diplomats, business leaders, and representatives of major European trade organisations. The visit, which began on June 8, is part of efforts to deepen economic ties under the India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda announced earlier this year. During the meeting, both sides discussed opportunities for investment and commercial partnerships in Assam and the wider Northeast region. Officials highlighted the

region's strategic location, natural resources, and growing industrial base as key factors attracting international investors. As part of their visit, the delegation is scheduled to tour India's first semiconductor manufacturing facility being developed at Jagiroad in Morigaon district. A business delegation organised by the Federation of European Businesses in India is also meeting local authorities and industry representatives to explore investment opportunities. Discussions are focused on sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, electronics, semiconductor manufacturing, tea production, and agro-processing. The delegation is also participating in a seminar titled "Blue Valleys: Building Ecosystems and Value Chains Between India and Europe."

Court Defers Order In IRCTC Money Laundering Case

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday postponed its decision on framing charges against RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his family members, and others in the alleged money laundering case linked to the IRCTC hotel scam. The Rouse Avenue Court has now scheduled the pronouncement of the order for July 16. The case is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which has filed a prosecution complaint against 16 accused persons. Those named include Rabri Devi, Tejashwi Yadav, Tej Pratap Yadav, Misa Bharti, and Hema Yadav. According to the ED, the money laundering case stems from the alleged IRCTC hotel scam originally investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The agency has alleged that irregularities occurred in awarding contracts for operating IRCTC hotels during Lalu Prasad Yadav's tenure as Railway Minister between 2004 and 2009.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ - 562114

ಸಹಾಯಕಾರ್ : 27931759, ದೂರವಾರ್ : 27931221,

Email: itstaff_uls_hosakote@yahoo.com Web Site: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ:ಸಂ.ಸಹ/ಕಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾಪಿ/ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು/ಸಿಆರ್/08/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.06.2026

"ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ವಾಂತ್ರ್ಯ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ 02 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದ್ವಿ-ಲೆವೆಲ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ವೀಕ್ಷಣೀಯವಾದ ಮಾರ್ಗ
01	DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT59522	49.00	Others
02	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58512	49.00	Others
03	DMA/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT58179	49.00	Others

1) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 17.06.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಡ್ ಕರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 19.06.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

2) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home> ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು

ವಾಸಾಂ/ಕಾ/ಸಂ/1077/ಬಿಡಿ ಸಾಯ/2026-27 ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

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FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD

Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpuru - Thiruvayur Road, Thiruvayur, Thiruvayur, Kerala 680567 | Phone No.: 0477-3520504, Website: www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MANAPPURAM") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest ("SARFESI") Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said "SARFESI" Act read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Prathibha Kumar L.S., Kavaria N.N., Siddeshwara, Dandamala, (NHLD00340044987/ Mysore)	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 141/107, P.D. No.152200602510600913, Situated At Channarayana Kavalu Gramapanchayat, Periyapattana Block, Mysore(D), Karnataka.Pin:571187Admeasuring: 111.48 Sq Mts. East-Vacant Site of Siddeshwara, West-Road., South-House of Shivama, North-House of Basavaraju	17-03-2026 & Rs.521385/-	05-06-2026
2	Basavaraju, Shwetha L.S., Chethan B.M., (NHLD00350058893/ Tumkur)	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Bearing Old Katha No.210, New Katha No.327/6/7 And E-Katha No.1525007008000120078, Measuring East To West:7.62 Meters And North To South: 13.7160 Meters, Situated At Badamaramahalli Village, Hukunte Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, Under The Limit of Handikunte Gramapanchayathi, Karnataka, Pin: 572113. East-Road, West-House of Navitharamma, South-Remainning Property of Navitharamma, North-Remainning Property of Navitharamma	17-03-2026 & Rs.520143/-	05-06-2026
3	Sujatha M.V., Yoganath B.R., (NHLD0040013495/ Mysore)	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No.578/879, P.D. No.152100100700120256, Situated At Bukinkere Village, Bukinkere Grama Panchayathi, Krishnarajpetta Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka, Pin: 571812 Totally 193.24 Square Meters. East-Land Belongs To Ramaswamy, West-Land Belongs To Javaregowda S/O Sathegowda, South-Canal Road., North-Land Belongs To Ramaswamy	18-03-2026 & Rs.356099/-	05-06-2026
4	Jayamma C., Manjunath C.R., Chandrapa B., (NHLD00510015494/ Shimoga)	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 578/879, P.D. No.152100100700120256, Situated At Bukinkere Village, Bukinkere Grama Panchayathi, Krishnarajpetta Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka, Pin: 571812, East-Property of Shanthappa W/O Parameshappa, West-Property of Prem W/O Lakshmanappa, South-Road, North-Road	18-03-2026 & Rs.420777/-	05-06-2026

Date: 10th June 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KOLLEGAL CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT

NO. MUNI/KGL/E.S/TENDER/CR/01/2026-27 Date :06.06.2026

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಂ:ಮುನಿ/ಕೋನಸ/ತಾ.ವಿ/ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು/01/2026-27

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The City Municipal Commissioner, Kollegal Chamarajanagar District, invites e-procurement tender from eligible contractors under Kw-4 document Under Work details as follows Name of work: Road development work In Kollegal Taluk Srirangapatana-Malaimahadeshwara hills road State highway-79 chain from 68.70 to 69.61 Kms (Dasanapura Junction to N H -948 connecting road (near Animal department Office)) 2025-26 CMIDP Grants (DMA-2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT57539) Estimate Cost: 150.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: 2,00,000, Period of Completion: 06 Months. Last date for uploading of completed tender documents: 22.06.2026 at 5.30 P.M, Prebid Meeting Venue & date: 12.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M, (CMC Kollegal Office) Last date of receiving tender 22.06.2026 at 5.30 P.M, Date of opening of tenders technical bids: 24.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M & Date of opening of Financial bids: Informed after Successful technical Bid Contractors, Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from e-procurement platform (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>) Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.erproc.karnataka.gov.in EMD and tender processing fees shall also be paid electronically.

Commissioner
City Municipal Council, Kollegal.

NO: DIPR CHANAGAR: 160: 2026-27

QUICK READ

Mother Arrested
For Killing Infant Son
Allegedly

Meerut

A woman was arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district for allegedly strangling her seven-month-old son and trying to portray the death as caused by illness, police said on Tuesday. The accused, Meenakshi, is alleged to have killed her son, Rudransh, on May 30 while she was alone at home in Murlipur village. She later informed family members that the child had fallen ill and died. The infant was subsequently buried. The case came to light after the child's father, Amit, who was away at the time, received information raising doubts about the circumstances of the death. Police said marital disputes between the couple also led to suspicion, and an investigation is underway.

Teen Girl
Injured, Police
Hunt Suspect

Mumbai

Mumbai Police have launched a manhunt for a young man accused of kidnapping and brutally assaulting a 16-year-old girl in the Amboli area. The victim suffered serious injuries to her face and jaw after being allegedly attacked with a stone and is currently undergoing treatment in hospital. Police said the girl is unable to speak properly due to the severity of her injuries. She had been living with her aunt and uncle in Jogeshwari after losing her parents at a young age.

Minister Alleges Sabotage Behind
Chennai Power Outages Crisis

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar on Tuesday alleged that frequent power outages in Chennai and its suburbs were not always caused by technical faults but were, in some cases, the result of deliberate sabotage.

The minister claimed that certain individuals were intentionally pulling fuses and tampering with power infrastructure to trigger blackouts and provoke public protests. He said electricity department officials were closely monitoring the frequency and locations of outages to identify suspicious patterns that indicated human interference rather than equipment failure.

Yogi Warns Against Love Jihad And Division

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said India cannot be a refuge for people who lack loyalty to the nation or respect for its traditions. Speaking at the closing ceremony of a nine-day Shri Ram Katha Mahotsav in Lucknow, he called for vigilance against what he described as "love jihad" and "land

President Appoints Three New
Ministers In Puducherry Cabinet

President Murmu approved the appointment of 3 new ministers, strengthening the Puducherry govt

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday appointed P. Rajavelu, V. P. Sivakolundhu and G. N. S. Rajasekaran as ministers in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The appointments were made on the advice of Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, according to an official government notification issued on Monday.

The notification stated that the President was pleased to appoint the three leaders as

ministers in the Council of Ministers for Puducherry with effect from the date they take oath of office. Their induction is expected to expand the ministry and strengthen the administration led by the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

The NDA secured victory in the Puducherry Assembly elections held on April 9. Following the election win, N. Rangasamy was sworn in as Chief Minister for the fifth

time on May 13. Along with him, BJP Legislature Party leader A. Namassivayam and AINRC legislator Malladi Krishna Rao also took oath as ministers in the second NDA government in the Union Territory.

The formation of a full-fledged ministry had been awaited for several weeks after the government assumed office. The delay had drawn criticism from opposition leaders, including

former Chief Minister and Congress leader V. Narayanasamy, who had questioned the government over the time taken to complete the cabinet expansion.

Rangasamy had contested and won from both Thattanchavady and Mangalam Assembly constituencies in the election. However, he later vacated the Thattanchavady seat and retained Mangalam.

With the appointment of Rajavelu, Sivakolundhu and Rajasekaran, the Puducherry government has moved closer to completing its ministerial team.

Political observers believe the expanded council will help the administration distribute responsibilities more effectively and focus on governance, development projects and public welfare programmes across the Union Territory in the coming months.



Congress Shifts MLAs
Ahead Of Rajya Sabha Polls

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Congress has decided to shift its MLAs to Karnataka ahead of the June 18 Rajya Sabha elections, alleging that the BJP is trying to poach opposition legislators and influence the voting process.

Senior Congress leaders said the move is aimed at preventing cross-voting and keeping the party united until polling day. The decision was discussed during a Congress Legislature Party meeting held late Monday night at the residence of Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar.

Congress legislators Vijay Revanath Choure, Yadavendra Singh and Babu Jandel confirmed that party MLAs would be moved to Bengaluru in Congress-ruled Karnataka. While some legislators were reportedly not in favour of

Congress has decided to move its Madhya Pradesh MLAs to Karnataka, alleging BJP attempts to lure legislators before the June 18 Rajya Sabha election

leaving the state, they agreed to follow the party leadership's decision.

Singhar accused the BJP of trying to buy Congress MLAs and claimed some legislators had informed him that they were approached with offers of money.

He said all Congress MLAs would be kept together in a party-ruled state to avoid any possibility of defections or cross-voting.

The Rajya Sabha election in Madhya Pradesh is being held for three vacant seats. Each candidate requires 58 first-preference votes to

win. The BJP, with 164 MLAs in the 230-member Assembly, is comfortably placed to win two seats and has fielded Tarun Chugh, Rajneesh Agrawal and Mahesh Kewat.

The Congress has nominated former MP Meenakshi Natarajan and believes it has enough support to secure the third seat. The Assembly's effective strength is currently 229, though legal and membership issues involving some legislators could affect voting numbers.

Congress leaders said the party is taking extra precautions because of the 2020 political crisis, when the Kamal Nath-led government collapsed after Jyotiraditya Scindia and 22 Congress MLAs joined the BJP, leading to a major change in the state's political landscape and balance of power.

DMK Clarifies Stalin
Remarks On TVK
Government Stability

CHENNAI

The DMK on Tuesday clarified remarks made by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin regarding the stability of the TVK government, stating that his comments should not be interpreted as an attempt to topple the administration.

Senior DMK leader and former minister Thangam Thennarasu said Stalin had no intention of seeking the government's removal or dissolution. According to him, Stalin's remarks were only meant to highlight concerns about the current political and administrative situation.

Speaking about Stalin's statement made on Sunday, Thennarasu said the DMK leader had earlier promised not to criticise the new government for six months after it assumed office. However, Sta-

lin later remarked that the government's functioning was so uncertain that he might have to speak sooner than expected.

Thennarasu said some political leaders and commentators misunderstood the statement and suggested that Stalin had predicted the government's collapse. He maintained that Stalin never said the government would fall and that such an interpretation was incorrect.

The former minister explained that Stalin was referring to what he described as a "cloud of uncertainty" surrounding the government. He said the remarks reflected concerns about governance and public issues rather than any political plan to bring down the administration.

Thennarasu criticised Vijay for not responding to issues such as crime, drug trafficking, power cuts, farmers' protests and sexual violence.

TMC Leaders
Rally Behind
Mamata Amid
Revolt Rumours

KOLKATA

Senior leaders of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) have strongly backed party chief Mamata Banerjee amid reports of internal dissent and speculation about a possible split within the party.

Rajya Sabha MP Sagarika Ghose said she firmly believed in Banerjee's leadership and criticised leaders who, according to her, abandoned the party after benefiting from its support during elections. In a post on social media, she described Banerjee as an inspiring leader and questioned the loyalty of those allegedly considering a change in allegiance after electoral setbacks.

Senior TMC leader Kirti Azad also expressed support for Banerjee, stating that he would stand with "Didi" throughout his political life. He dismissed reports of a list of rebel lawmakers as fabricated and accused the BJP of spreading misinformation. Azad further alleged that attempts were being made to pressure TMC leaders through central agencies and political influence.

TMC MP Mahua Moitra criticised those she described as traitors, arguing that MPs elected on a TMC ticket received a mandate from voters for the party and not for the NDA. She said those wishing to join the BJP should resign their seats and seek a fresh mandate from voters.

Meanwhile, Derek O'Brien also backed the statements supporting Banerjee by sharing Ghose's remarks on social media.

The strong public support from senior leaders comes amid growing political speculation about internal differences within the TMC.

CID Gives
Abhishek Final
Deadline In
Forgery Probe

KOLKATA

The West Bengal CID has issued a third notice to TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee in connection with the alleged signature forgery case in the state Assembly, directing him to appear before investigators by 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

According to sources, the fresh notice was served after Banerjee failed to respond to two earlier summonses. A team of eight CID officers, including women personnel, visited his Kalighat residence on Monday and formally delivered the notice after he missed the second appearance deadline.

Congress released a detailed report alleging a wide gap between
government promises and outcomes

Congress Questions Modi Government's
Performance After Two Years

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Narendra Modi-led government as it completed two years of its third term in office. The party released a 75-page "promise versus reality" document, claiming that several promises made over the past 12 years have not translated into meaningful benefits for citizens.

Congress leaders Rajeev Gowda and Amitabh Dubey unveiled the report and accused the government of relying on publicity while

failing to deliver results in key sectors such as employment, economy, agriculture, infrastructure, social welfare and governance.

Gowda said the government had promised to make India a global employment hub, but unemployment among graduates remained high. He claimed that four out of ten graduates were unemployed and that urban youth unemployment stood at 18.4 per cent. He also alleged that only a small percentage of unemployed graduates secured permanent salaried jobs within a year. The Congress leader

further claimed that benefits under the Ujjwala scheme had been reduced and criticised the government over women's employment opportunities. He said India's ranking in the Global Gender Gap Index had fallen significantly over the years. Raising concerns about the economy, Gowda stated that around 40,000 micro, small and medium enterprises had shut down in the previous financial year.

He also alleged that democratic institutions had weakened and questioned the deletion of voter names from electoral rolls.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad
contact: 080-41209042

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE

(Accredited by NAAC with "A" Grade) NIRF-2022 Ranked 33 in University Category & 54 in Overall Category)

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION DIVISION

Manasagangothri, Mysuru - 570006

Telephone No: 0821-2419556, e-mail address: icd@uni-mvsore.ac.in

No.MGM/ICD/48/2026-2027 Dated: 08-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal only)

The Director, Information and Communication Division invites tender from eligible bidders for purchase and installation of "Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Web Application Firewall and Wired Network Firewall License for 3 years to Information and Communication Division, Manasagangothri, University of Mysore, Mysuru-570006" through e-procurement Portal as per KTPP Act of Government of Karnataka.

Tender Number : UOM/2026-27/IND0068

For further clarification bidders may view at website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and may contact

No. 0821-2419556

Sd/-
Director

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDI/SAI/282/2026-27



KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of forest
(Head of Forest Force) Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross,
Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003.



No.: KFD/2026-27/SE1979 Date:09.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from contractors through the GoK e-portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> to select a well-established and reputable Professional Consultancy Agency to set up a Programme Management Unit under the Karnataka Forest Department for the year 2026-27.

Last date for uploading tender forms in e-procurement: **01.07.2026 upto 5.30 PM**. Date of opening of technical bids: **03.07.2026 at 12.30 PM**. Financial bids will be opened only if the conditions in the technical bid are successfully fulfilled and bids not fulfilling the conditions will be rejected. Financial bid will be opened on **05.07.2026 at 12-30 PM**.

If no tender is received on the above dates or if the tender is not held due to any reason, the tender will be continued upto **10.07.2026 at 5.30 PM** subject to the conditions of this advertisement (Auto Extension). The technical bid will be opened on **12.07.2026 at 12.30 PM**. The financial bid will be opened on **14.07.2026**.

Further details regarding this tender, Contact the Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Headquarters, Aranya Bhavan, Malleswaram, Bangalore.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forest
(Headquarters)

DIPR/CP/JA/1065/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಪೈಟೆಕ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಮನಗರ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಎಸ್.ಪಿ. ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಕ್ಕ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-577005 ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 237833
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08192 230919 e mail : dhodavangere@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಆ/ಚಿಂಆ/ಡೋ.ನು/01/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:08/06/2026

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮರು ಚಿಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 22 ಫಾರ್ಮ್‌ಸಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, 02 ಕಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಯೋಗ ಶಾಲಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, 02 ಶುಶ್ರುಷಕರು, 101 ಗೂಡ್ಸ್ "ಡಿ", 20 ಸಾನ್-ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಗೂಡ್ಸ್-ಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ 02 ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಸಪರೇಟರ್ (ಒಟ್ಟು-149 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು) ಮಾರ್ಚ್-2027ರ (ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31-03-2027) ರವರೆಗಿನ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ (ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಐ ನಿಯಮ) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಧ್ವಿಕ್ಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಚಿಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಚಿಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ:08-06-2026 (2) ಚಿಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 3,46,61,428/- (ಮೂರು ಕೋಟಿ ನಲವತ್ತಾರು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಅರವತ್ತೊಂದು ಸಾವಿರದ ನಾಲ್ಕುನೂರು ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತೆಂಟು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ) (3) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಚಿಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು E-Procurement Portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:09-06-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:23-06-2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4:30 ರವರೆಗೆ

(4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟಿ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:25-06-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.31 ರಂಟಿಗೆ

(5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟಿಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ತೀರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು

(6) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತೀರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು

(7) ಚಿಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 8,67,000/- (ಎಂಟು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಅರವತ್ತೇಳು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ) (8) E-Procurement Portal Processing Fees E-Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿತವಿರುವಂತೆ

(9) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಪೈಟೆಕ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮ ನಗರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಎಸ್.ಪಿ. ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್ ಪಕ್ಕ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-577005 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192-237833

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಎಚಿ/143/ ಸಿಒ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಎ/2026-27 ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

However, Zelenskiy said he recently held a “positive” conversation with US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, who reportedly showed willingness to work on a potential settlement in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, fighting continues along key frontlines, with both sides exchanging attacks and civilian areas frequently affected by shelling, destruction and rising casualties across several Ukrainian regions during ongoing hostilities.



Argentina receive fitness boost ahead of crucial WC title defence

MESSI AND KEY TEAMMATES EDGE CLOSER TO FULL TOURNAMENT FITNESS

KANSAS CITY

Defending champions Argentina have received a significant boost ahead of their FIFA World Cup title defence, with several injured players making encouraging progress towards full fitness before the team's opening match against Algeria on June 16.

The biggest positive for the South American giants is the recovery of captain Lionel Messi, who has been managing left hamstring fatigue suffered during his final club appearance for Inter Miami before the World Cup break. Although his participation in Argentina's final warm-up

match against Iceland remains uncertain, team officials remain confident he will be available for the World Cup opener.

If selected, the 38-year-old superstar will make history by becoming one of the first players, alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, to feature in matches at six FIFA World Cups.

Argentina's medical staff has also been encouraged by the return of several other key players to full training. Midfielder Nico Paz and defenders Nahuel Molina and Gonzalo Montiel all took part fully in training sessions in Kansas City, indicating they are close to match readiness.

Paz, one of Argentina's brightest young talents, has been sidelined since suffering a knee injury while playing for Italian club Como in May. His recovery provides coach Lionel Scaloni with additional midfield options ahead of the tournament.

Molina and Montiel bring valuable experience to the squad, having played key roles during Argentina's triumphant 2022 World Cup campaign. Together, the two right-backs have accumulated nearly 100 international appearances and remain important members of the national team setup.

Meanwhile, goalkeeper

Emiliano Martínez and midfielder Leandro Paredes continued individual training programmes away from the main group. However, reports suggest neither player is expected to miss any World Cup matches. Argentina begin their Group J campaign against Algeria national football team in Kansas City before facing Austria national football team on June 22 and Jordan national football team on June 27.

With fitness concerns easing and key players returning to action, Argentina appear increasingly well-positioned to launch a strong defence of the World Cup crown they won four years ago.

Spain defeat Peru to complete WC preparations on winning note

PUEBLA

Spain wrapped up their preparations for the FIFA World Cup in impressive fashion with a comfortable 3-1 victory over Peru in an international friendly played in Puebla, Mexico.

Despite missing several key players due to injuries, the European giants delivered a polished performance and will head into the tournament full of confidence ahead of their opening match against Cape Verde on June 15.

Spain made a dream start to the contest when Mikel Oyarzabal found the back of the net just two minutes after kickoff, giving his side an early advantage. The quick goal allowed Spain to settle into their rhythm and dominate possession against a Peru side that failed to qualify for the World Cup. Midfield star Pedri

doubled Spain's lead in the 32nd minute with a well-taken finish, ensuring coach Luis de la Fuente's men went into the break with a comfortable 2-0 advantage.

The Spanish side extended their lead further in the 53rd minute when Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese accidentally turned the ball into his own net, making it 3-0 and effectively ending any hopes of a comeback.

Peru managed a consolation goal through Jairo Vélaz in the 66th minute, but Spain remained firmly in control and comfortably saw out the remainder of the match.

The victory was particularly

encouraging for Spain given the absence of several important players. Young star Lamine Yamal, winger Nico Williams and defender Victor Muñoz all missed the game because of injuries and remained at the team's training base in Tennessee.

However, coach De la Fuente expressed optimism regarding their recovery, stating that all three players could be available for selection when Spain begin their World Cup campaign against Cape Verde in Atlanta.

Yamal's potential return will be especially significant. The Barcelona sensation has not featured since April 22 due to a hamstring injury, and his fitness remains a major talking point ahead of the tournament.

Following their opening fixture, Spain will face Saudi Arabia on June 21 in Atlanta before taking on Uruguay on June 26 in Guadalajara, Mexico. With a convincing win over Peru and key players nearing a return, Spain appear well prepared as they chase World Cup glory on the global stage.

Captain Endo confident Japan can achieve unprecedented success at tournament

Japan targets historic WC run as expectations continue rising

NASHVILLE

Japan captain Wataru Endo has declared that the Samurai Blue are aiming to create history at the FIFA World Cup, with expectations higher than ever following the team's impressive performances in recent tournaments.

Speaking after Japan's first training session in Nashville, Endo said the squad is determined to achieve something never before accomplished in Japanese football history.

"We will do our best with pride and passion to achieve something that we've never seen before in Japan's soccer history," the Liverpool midfielder said.

Japan arrived in Nashville on Monday and held an open training session at GEODIS Park, home of Major League Soccer club Nashville SC. More than 5,000 fans attended the practice, reflecting the growing excitement surrounding the team's World Cup campaign.

The players spent nearly an hour jogging, stretching and working through light drills



before interacting with supporters by handing out gifts and souvenirs. Fans had travelled from across the United States and Japan to catch a glimpse of the national team ahead of the tournament.

Japan will use Nashville as its training base before opening its Group F campaign against the Netherlands in Arlington, Texas, on Sunday.

The Asian powerhouse enters the World Cup with increasing confidence after producing two of the tournament's biggest upsets in Qatar 2022, defeating both Germany and Spain during the group stage. Those victories helped Japan reach the knockout rounds for the second consecutive

World Cup.

However, the team is now aiming to go even further after suffering a heartbreaking penalty shootout defeat against Croatia in the Round of 16 four years ago.

Supporters are optimistic about Japan's chances. Takuro Kaya, who travelled from North Carolina with his son Yuhi, said they were excited to watch the team and expected a deep run in the competition.

Japan will be without star winger Kaoru Mitoma, who missed selection due to a hamstring injury. Nevertheless, the squad remains packed with talent and experience.

Somali referee ruled out of WC after US entry denial

MIAMI

Somali referee Omar Artan will not officiate at the FIFA World Cup after being denied entry into the United States, dealing a major setback to the experienced match official just days before the tournament.

The decision was confirmed after US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced that a Somali national scheduled to referee at the World Cup had been refused entry upon arrival at Miami International Airport from Istanbul. While the agency did not initially identify the individual, Artan is the only referee from Somalia selected for the tournament.

FIFA later confirmed that Artan would be unable to participate in training sessions or officiate during the World Cup and released a statement on his behalf.

"Despite the circumstances, I am in a positive mood and focused on the next challenges in my refereeing career," Artan said. He also thanked FIFA, the Confederation of African Football (CAF), and the global football community for their support and messages of encouragement.



ment. Artan expressed hope of returning to officiate at future international competitions and wished his fellow referees success during the tournament.

FIFA clarified that it was not involved in immigration decisions and had been informed by US authorities that Artan's immigration status would not be changed at this stage. "In line with previous FIFA events, a host government ultimately determines who receives a visa and who is admitted into their country," the governing body said.

According to CBP, Artan underwent additional screening after arriving in the United States. Officials stated that the process was part of standard inspection procedures used when officers need to verify in-

formation or assess admissibility. "Following inspection, the traveler was determined to be inadmissible due to vetting concerns and was denied entry," the agency said.

Authorities did not disclose the specific reasons behind the decision, citing immigration and security procedures.

CBP also emphasized that all individuals entering the country, including athletes, coaches, officials and support staff participating in international sporting events, are subject to the same inspection and vetting processes.

The development has sparked disappointment within football circles, particularly in Africa, where Artan is regarded as one of the continent's leading referees. His absence means Somalia will have no on-field officiating representation at the World Cup despite his historic selection for the prestigious tournament.

US team embraces WC spotlight amid growing fan enthusiasm

IRVINE

The United States men's national football team has settled into its World Cup training base in Southern California with confidence, excitement and gratitude after receiving an overwhelming



welcome from thousands of enthusiastic supporters.

The Americans held their first public training session at Great Park in Irvine on Monday, where more than 5,500 fans gathered to watch preparations for the tournament. The turnout served as another reminder of the growing popularity of football in the United States and the unique opportunity awaiting the host nation. Head coach Mauricio Pochettino embraced the occasion, interacting with the supporters and even leading a loud "U-S-A!" chant before the squad began training on the field.

"The facilities are amazing. It's more than we expected, and not only the facilities, but also the people working here," Pochettino said. "Great facilities and great people are

an amazing combination. We are grateful."

The United States will remain based in Irvine for at least the next three weeks and enters the tournament after completing a training camp in Georgia and two international friendlies. Their World Cup campaign begins on Friday against Paraguay at SoFi Stadium in nearby Inglewood.

Captain Tim Ream said the team had been pleasantly surprised by the level of support shown by fans.

"We've all been pleasantly surprised by the excitement and buzz around the team. Seeing 5,500 people come to watch a training session is incredible," Ream said.

The veteran defender stressed that the players understand the significance of representing the host nation on football's biggest stage.

"This is a once-in-a-career opportunity. There is pressure and expectation, but we have to enjoy it. It's something none of us will ever experience again," he added.

The event attracted supporters from across the country, many of whom secured access through a lottery system that reportedly drew more than 32,000 applications.

There was additional good news for the American camp as key defender Chris Richards participated fully in training.

Olise hat-trick powers France past Northern Ireland before World Cup

PARIS

Michael Olise produced a stunning hat-trick as France defeated Northern Ireland 3-1 in their final warm-up match before the FIFA World Cup, giving coach Didier Deschamps a memorable farewell appearance on French soil.

The Bayern Munich winger was the standout performer in Lille, scoring all three goals as France completed their preparations in style ahead of their tournament opener against Senegal on June 16 in New Jersey.

The match also marked Deschamps' final game in France before stepping down after the World Cup, ending a remarkable 14-year tenure in charge of Les Bleus. The veteran coach selected an attacking lineup featuring Kylian Mbappé, Ousmane Dembélé, Désiré Doué and Olise, and the quartet frequently troubled the Northern Ireland de-

fence. Olise opened the scoring in the 43rd minute when he reacted quickest after Dembélé's shot was blocked inside the penalty area. The winger doubled France's advantage shortly after halftime, firing home from close range following another defensive lapse.

The 24-year-old then completed his hat-trick in spectacular fashion in the 75th minute. Cutting in from the right flank, Olise curled a superb left-footed effort into the top corner from around 20 metres, leaving the goalkeeper with no chance.

The performance further strengthened his credentials as a guaranteed starter for France at the World Cup. Olise has enjoyed an outstanding season with Bayern Munich, scoring 22 goals in all competitions and establishing himself as one of Europe's most dangerous attacking players.



Gukesh can learn from Praggnanandhaa's resilience, says Viswanathan Anand

CHENNAI

Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand believes reigning world champion D Gukesh can take valuable inspiration from compatriot R Praggnanandhaa following the youngster's historic triumph at the Norway Chess tournament.

Praggnanandhaa recently became the first Indian player to win the prestigious Norway Chess title after producing a remarkable comeback in the final rounds of the event. Meanwhile, Gukesh endured a disappointing campaign, finishing sixth despite entering the tournament as the reigning world champion.

Speaking about Praggnanandhaa's achievement, Anand praised the teenager's fighting spirit, creativity and perseverance.

"I am delighted that Praggnanandhaa has won Norway Chess in an impressive style. I am especially happy with the spectacular turnaround he achieved in the last four rounds," Anand said.

The five-time world champion noted that Praggnanandhaa's willingness to fight in every position has become one of his greatest strengths. "He is always ready for a



fight and often comes up with interesting concepts on the board. The results may not always go his way, but his attitude remains the same," Anand observed.

Turning his attention to Gukesh, Anand said the world champion appears to be going through a difficult phase but stressed that hard work and persistence can quickly reverse fortunes in elite chess.

"At the moment, Praggnanandhaa is playing better than Gukesh, but things can change very quickly. Gukesh seems to be stuck a little. He can take inspiration from Pragg and understand that continued hard work eventually brings results," he said.

Gukesh is expected to defend his world title later this year against Javokhir

Sindarov, making the coming months crucial for his preparations. Anand also highlighted the healthy rivalry among India's leading young grandmasters, including Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi.

"We have never had three players at such a high level simultaneously. They are constantly pushing each other to improve," he said.

The chess icon expressed satisfaction with India's rapid rise in world chess, noting that the country now boasts 95 grandmasters and consistently produces players capable of competing at the highest level.

According to Anand, India is firmly among the world's top three chess nations and continues to strengthen its position with every passing year.

QUICK READ



Zepto IPO filing reveals ED summons detail case

New Delhi

Zepto disclosed in its updated draft red herring prospectus that its founders Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra received summons from the Enforcement Directorate in April under FEMA-related proceedings. The ED reportedly sought detailed information on foreign investments, shareholding, financial statements, loans, bank accounts and the business model of the company.

Both founders appeared before the agency in April and May and provided documents and responses during multiple interactions. The filing also states that no further communication has been received from the ED after submissions. SEBI approved the IPO in May, with a fresh issue of about Rs 8,000 crore and planned use for expansion, technology and marketing.

Executive highlights strong AI revenue growth outlook FY26

Mumbai

The executive Chairman N Chandrasekaran said the company recorded an annualised AI revenue of \$2.4 billion in the last quarter of FY26, growing at a compound quarterly rate of 22.4%. He noted that despite investor concerns and broader IT sector pressure, fundamentals remain strong with stable margins, rising revenues and a healthy deal pipeline. He explained that AI will move beyond software into the physical world, impacting stores, factories, warehouses, energy networks, vehicles and supply chains. This will require experts who can integrate IT, AI and physical infrastructure. Addressing job concerns, he said fears of AI replacing IT services reflect misunderstanding of how AI integrates into enterprise systems rather than replacing human work.

GeM enables Rs 8.69 lakh crore orders growth

New Delhi

Government e-marketplace GeM has significantly boosted inclusion, with MSME registrations rising from 2,396 in 2016-17 to over 11.9 lakh, Commerce Ministry said. Procurement from MSEs rose from Rs 69 crore to over Rs 8.69 lakh crore, while orders increased from 2,994 to over 2.17 crore. Women-owned MSEs rose from 268 to over 2.16 lakh, with procurement reaching Rs 93,327 crore. Startups increased from 88 to over 40,000, with procurement rising to Rs 61,400 crore. SC/ST MSEs grew to over 66,000, with Rs 21,800 crore. Platform supported procurement of vaccine doses and syringes, alongside wider healthcare supplies. It continues to expand digital procurement efficiency and transparency nationwide under public procurement.

Ministers praise Modi's twelve years, Viksit Bharat vision

Union ministers hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12-year tenure, highlighting welfare, infrastructure, inclusion, empowerment, and development achievements.

NEW DELHI

Union ministers on Tuesday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office, highlighting achievements in welfare, infrastructure, financial inclusion, economic growth, and citizen-centric governance. They said the government's initiatives have transformed lives and strengthened India's journey toward becoming a developed nation under the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the last twelve years established new benchmarks in service, good governance, and public welfare. He noted that schemes focused on poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, farmer welfare, youth opportunities, modern infrastructure, and national security have con-



tributed significantly to India's progress.

According to figures shared by Goyal, more than 81 crore citizens receive free foodgrains every month, while over four crore houses have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He also highlighted the opening of crores of Jan Dhan accounts for women, support to self-help groups, expansion of metro networks across major cities, operation of 164 Vande Bharat trains, growth in airports, and the rise of over 2.2 lakh startups

- Ministers hail Modi's 12-year leadership
- Welfare schemes transformed millions of lives
- Infrastructure expansion highlighted across sectors
- Financial inclusion achieved through Jan Dhan
- Viksit Bharat vision gains strong support

nationwide.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized that the government's guiding principle has been "Jan Seva Se Jan Shakti." She said initiatives over the years have focused on empowering citizens through inclusion, innovation, and opportunity. She pointed to the success of the Jan Dhan Yojana, under which more than 58 crore bank accounts have been opened, along with substantial growth in deposits. She also highlighted assistance provid-

ed to street vendors through the PM SVANidhi scheme.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said public welfare has remained at the center of governance, helping India advance across infrastructure, digital transformation, women's empowerment, and global outreach. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri described Modi as a leader committed to service, saying his vision and dedication have helped lay the foundation for a confident and developed India.

India is expected to witness salary increments between 8.6 and 10.2 percent across industries in FY27.

India salary hikes pegged at 8.6-10.2 percent in FY27

BENGALURU

India is projected to record average salary increments ranging from 8.6 per cent to 10.2 percent in FY27, driven by sustained demand for skilled professionals and execution-focused talent, according to a report released on Tuesday.

The latest report by Team Lease Services indicates a stable yet differentiated compensation outlook across sectors. High-growth industries such as electric vehicles (EV) and EV infrastructure, Fin Tech, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, and power and energy are expected to offer salary hikes between 9.6 per cent and 10.2 per cent.

At the role level, Electrical Engineers are projected to receive the highest increment of 11.2 per cent, followed by Quality Control Inspectors at 10.9 per cent, IT Support Ex-



ecutives at 10.3 per cent, and both Quality Assurance Engineers and Site Engineers at 10.2 per cent.

The study, based on inputs from 1,268 businesses across 23 industries and 20 cities, identified Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad as emerging salary growth hubs in the country.

Industries classified under the sustainable growth category, including automotive, retail, insurance, and business process outsourcing (BPO), are expected to witness salary increases ranging from 8.9 per cent to 9.5 per cent. Within these sectors, Project Engineers are likely to receive increments of 10.7 per cent,

while EHS Officers, IT Support Executives, and Relationship Executives may see hikes of around 10.1 per cent.

Balasubramanian A, Senior Vice President at Team Lease Services, said salary trends are increasingly influenced by sector-specific growth and specialized skill requirements. He noted that compensation growth is no longer limited to traditional metropolitan centres, with emerging cities gaining prominence due to industrial expansion and growing enterprise investments.

The report also highlighted more moderate salary growth in banking, construction and real estate, telecommunications, and textiles, where increments are expected between 8.6 per cent and 8.8 per cent. Sales and marketing, engineering, and IT functions continue to show the strongest compensation momentum.

2026, driven by higher energy costs and base effects.

The agency also flagged weather-related risks, including forecasts of below-average monsoon rainfall and ongoing heatwave conditions in parts of the country, which could put additional pressure on food prices.

Regarding the currency, Fitch said it does not expect any significant further depreciation of the Indian rupee this year.

Last week, the Reserve Bank of India projected real GDP growth at 6.6 per cent for FY27, while cautioning that global supply chain disruptions, financial market volatility, and adverse weather conditions remain key downside risks.

REDUCING FOOD LOSSES

Fitch retains India growth forecast at 6.4 pc

NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings has retained India's GDP growth forecast at 6.4 per cent for FY27, while warning that the ongoing West Asia crisis and elevated oil prices could weigh on economic activity in the coming quarters.

In its June Global Economic Outlook, the global credit rating agency said it expects India's economic growth to moderate to 6.4 per cent in FY27, reflecting a downward revision of 0.3 percentage points from its March projection. According to Fitch, domestic demand will remain the primary driver of growth. However, lower imports in real terms are expected to contribute positively through

- India growth forecast retained at 6.4%
- West Asia crisis poses economic risks
- Domestic demand remains key growth driver
- Inflation may rise to 5.3%
- RBI projects higher 6.6% growth

net external demand, partially offsetting global headwinds.

The agency forecasts a recovery in FY28, projecting GDP growth at 6.7 per cent as geopolitical tensions ease and the impact of higher oil prices subsides. Stronger consumer

spending and investment activity are expected to support the rebound. Growth is then projected to moderate to 6.4 per cent in FY29, aligning with the economy's long-term trend.

Fitch Chief Economist Brian Coulton said the oil price shock is affecting global growth prospects and increasing downside risks. However, he noted that a significant rise in global spending on information technology is helping cushion the impact on economic activity, particularly across Asia.

On inflation, Fitch said consumer price pressures in India have not risen sharply so far. It expects inflation to increase gradually and reach 5.3 per cent by the end of

Global LNG prices seen rising amid stronger demand

NEW DELHI

Ope's efforts to replenish depleted gas inventories before winter, according to a report released on Tuesday.

A report by Morgan Stanley projected the Asian LNG benchmark price to reach \$25 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) during the third and fourth quarters of the year. This would represent an increase of more than 30 per cent from current forward market levels and mark the highest price since early 2023.

The brokerage noted that LNG prices are likely to remain elevated even if geopolitical tensions in the Middle East ease in the coming months. Disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for LNG exports from major producers such as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, have continued to influence global energy markets.

According to the report, natural gas demand has begun recovering in key Asian economies, including India and China. At the same time, Europe faces increasing pressure to rebuild gas inventories after storage levels fell significantly below historical averages.

Analysts observed that weaker LNG imports during March and April helped offset some supply disruptions. However, demand has started rebounding with the onset of summer and growing require-



Global LNG prices may surge as Asian demand strengthens and Europe accelerates inventory rebuilding ahead of winter.

ments for energy storage.

Despite challenges in the Persian Gulf region, global LNG supply has remained relatively resilient. Increased output from facilities in other regions and additional export capacity in North America have helped support market availability. As a result, global LNG supply in May was only around one million tonnes lower than the corresponding period last year.

The report also highlighted forecasts of above-normal temperatures across parts of Asia during June and July, which are expected to boost LNG consumption for cooling purposes.

In Europe, gas demand softened last month, but storage inventories remain about 17 per cent below year-ago levels and nearly 25 per cent lower than the 10-year average, underscoring the need for additional LNG purchases in the coming months.

IIT Madras to showcase innovations at France event

NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) will showcase a wide range of deep-tech innovations, strategic research initiatives, and incubated startups at Bharat Innovates 2026, an international technology exhibition scheduled to be held in France from June 14 to 16.

Organized by the Ministry of Education, the event aims to identify, mentor, and showcase some of India's most promising technology ventures emerging from higher educational institutions and centrally funded technical institutes. It is expected to bring together innovators, investors, policymakers, industry leaders, research institutions, and technology partners from across the world.

IIT Madras will play a prominent role by leading two of the 13 thematic areas at the event and presenting 15 startups incubated at the institute. The institute's pavilion will also feature five major research projects that demonstrate India's growing capabilities in deep-tech innovation and indigenous technology development.

Among the key technologies on display will be Hyperloop transportation systems, lab-grown diamond technologies, indigenous 5G and 6G communication solutions, smart port automation platforms, and

low-compute artificial intelligence ecosystems.

IIT Madras Director Prof. V. Kamakoti said the India-France Year of Innovation 2026 and Bharat Innovates 2026 are expected to strengthen collaboration between IIT Madras and French universities, research laboratories, industries, and startups. He noted that the event could pave the way for joint research projects, technology transfer initiatives, startup partnerships, standards development, and talent exchange programmes.

The institute will lead the Blue Economy and Next-Generation Communications segments. Startups such as REIO Systems, As-trome Technologies, and WiSig Networks will demonstrate indigenous communication technologies, while Planys Technologies will showcase advanced underwater inspection solutions for maritime infrastructure. Another startup, Zerocircle, will present sustainable seaweed-based alternatives to plastic packaging.

IIT Madras will also exhibit innovations from the Indian Centre for Lab Grown Diamonds and its Hyperloop research programme. The institute said the event will provide global exposure to Indian innovations and create new opportunities for international collaboration and startup growth.

India poised to lead agricultural transformation: World Bank

AHMEDABAD

India has the potential to lead the next phase of agricultural transformation in South Asia by expanding food processing, storage, logistics, and value-added activities, the World Bank Group said on Tuesday.

The observations were made during the Regional High-Level Policy Dialogue organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) in collaboration with the World Bank Group-led SAPLING initiative in

Ahmedabad.

Speaking at the event, World Bank Group representatives highlighted that transforming food systems beyond farm production can generate substantial opportunities for employment, investment, economic growth, and poverty reduction. They stressed that the future of agriculture lies not only in increasing crop output but also in strengthening the entire value chain from production to processing and distribution.

South Asia's agriculture



sector is valued at more than \$700 billion annually and employs nearly 43 per cent of the region's workforce.

However, despite its scale, the sector contributes only around 16 per cent to the region's GDP. Experts noted that over 30 per cent of food produced in South Asia is lost or wasted every year, enough to feed nearly 300 million people.

India has made significant progress in agricultural production, with food grain output rising from 51 million tonnes in 1950-51 to over 330 million tonnes currently. Processed food exports have also more than doubled over the last decade, increasing

from around \$4.9 billion to over \$10 billion. The food processing sector now contributes approximately 9 per cent of manufacturing value added and nearly 13 per cent of the country's exports.

Despite these gains, experts said considerable untapped potential remains. They emphasized the need for stronger cold-chain infrastructure, storage facilities, logistics networks, and market linkages to reduce food losses and enhance farmer incomes.

To support this transforma-

tion, the World Bank Group is promoting AgriConnect and SAPLING initiatives. AgriConnect aims to connect 300 million farmers to markets by 2030 through infrastructure investments, policy reforms, and private capital mobilisation.

Participants called for coordinated efforts among governments, businesses, investors, and development institutions to strengthen agricultural value chains and create sustainable economic opportunities across the region.



BCCI prioritises recovery as Prasidh replaces Siraj for overseas tour

SIRAJ RESTED, PRASIDH JOINS INDIA SQUAD

MUMBAI

India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has been withdrawn from the national squad for the upcoming T20I tours of Ireland and England as part of a workload management programme, with Prasidh Krishna named as his replacement.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the decision on Tuesday, describing it as a precautionary measure aimed at ensuring Siraj remains fit and fresh ahead of a demanding international season.

Siraj had originally been selected for the two-match T20I

series against Ireland and the five-match T20I series in England. However, following discussions between the BCCI medical team and the team management, the pacer was advised to take a period of rest.

“Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has been withdrawn from India’s squads for the upcoming T20I series against Ireland and England. Following discussions between the BCCI Medical Team and the Team Management, Siraj has been advised a period of rest as part of his workload management programme,” the BCCI said in an official statement.

The board further stated that

the decision was taken to ensure adequate recovery and avoid any risk of fatigue or injury during a lengthy cricket calendar.

Prasidh Krishna, who has impressed in domestic and international cricket with his pace and bounce, has been drafted into the squad as Siraj’s replacement for both tours.

Siraj has endured a busy season across formats. He featured in all 17 matches for Gujarat Titans during IPL 2026, claiming 19 wickets and playing a crucial role in the franchise’s campaign. He was also a late inclusion in India’s T20 World Cup squad and recently

represented the country in the one-off Test against Afghanistan, which India won by an innings and 300 runs.

The move reflects the growing emphasis on player workload management by the Indian team, especially for fast bowlers who face a packed schedule across formats.

India’s T20I squad for the Ireland and England tours will continue to be led by Shreyas Iyer, with Tilak Varma serving as vice-captain. Young sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, along with experienced campaigners Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel and Arshdeep Singh, also feature in the squad.

Australian legend hails Sooryavanshi’s impact while backing traditional Test cricket

Sooryavanshi changed cricket’s dynamics, says McGrath while praising teenage sensation

CHENNAI

Former Australian pace great Glenn McGrath has heaped praise on teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, saying the youngster has already “changed the game” with his extraordinary performances and fearless approach in the IPL.

McGrath, who is in Chennai as Director of Coaching at the MRF Pace Foundation alongside chief coach M. Senthilnathan, described Sooryavanshi as a rare talent whose power-hitting and maturity have surprised cricket followers around the world.

The Australian World Cup winner said the 15-year-old’s remarkable IPL campaign,

which earned him the Orange Cap and a place in India’s T20I squad for the England and Ireland tour, had been nothing short of sensational.

“It is nice to see the kid play the way he did in the IPL. He has definitely changed the game,” McGrath said, recalling the teenager’s fearless batting against some of the world’s best bowlers, including three consecutive sixes off Australian captain Pat Cummins.

“He was unbelievable. A guy who is only 15 looks incredibly strong. I think something like this can happen only in India or the subcontinent. In Australia, I can’t imagine a 15-year-old playing at this level,” he added.



While applauding Sooryavanshi’s achievements, McGrath stressed that Test cricket remains the ultimate challenge and hoped young players would continue to value the longest format. He opposed suggestions of reducing Test matches to four days, insisting that five-day contests provide the true examination of a player’s skill and

character.

Referring to India’s recent innings victory over Afghanistan, McGrath said he was pleased with the result but disappointed that the match ended in just three days.

“Test cricket should be a contest between bat and ball and last five days. Playing on a fifth-day wicket is the ultimate challenge,” he said.

McGrath also expressed pride in MRF Pace Foundation products Sakib Hussain and Praful Hinge, who impressed for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, saying their performances reflected the academy’s continued success in nurturing fast-bowling talent.



DHARAMSHALA

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has been cleared to return to international cricket for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan after successfully completing fitness assessments at the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru.

India receives major boost as Hardik Pandya regains full fitness ahead

The 32-year-old, who missed several IPL matches for Mumbai Indians due to recurring back spasms, has been undergoing rehabilitation and training at the CoE since June 2.

According to BCCI sources, Pandya completed a series of match simulations over five days and bowled his full quota of 10 overs without any discomfort, a key indicator of his readiness for 50-over cricket.

Officials monitoring his progress confirmed that his fitness parameters were reviewed and approved by

the Strength and Conditioning team at the CoE. The successful completion of his bowling workload comes as a major boost for the Indian team, which relies heavily on Pandya’s ability to contribute with both bat and ball.

Pandya remains a crucial component of India’s white-ball setup, providing balance through his pace bowling and aggressive finishing abilities in the lower middle order. His return is expected to strengthen India’s preparations ahead of a busy international calendar.

While it remains unclear whether Pandya will join the squad for an under-lights training session in Chandigarh or link up directly with the team in Dharamshala, his fitness clearance has effectively ended concerns surrounding his availability for the Afghanistan series.

Meanwhile, former India captain Rohit Sharma is also at the Centre of Excellence undergoing assessment for a hamstring niggle that sidelined him during several matches of the recent IPL season. Team management is expected to receive an update on Rohit’s condition in the coming days.

Red-ball cricket remains pinnacle of sport, says debutant Manav Suthar

MULLANPUR

India’s latest Test debutant Manav Suthar has reaffirmed his love for red-ball cricket, describing the longest format as the pinnacle of the sport and revealing that he continued practising with the red ball even during IPL 2026 in preparation for a potential opportunity.

The 23-year-old left-arm spinner enjoyed a dream debut against Afghanistan, claiming match figures of 7 wickets, including a stunning first-innings haul of 6/35, while also contributing valuable runs with the bat. His all-round performance played a key role in India’s commanding innings-and-300-run victory in the one-off Test at Mullanpur.



Suthar said playing Test cricket for India had always been his ultimate ambition.

“From the day I started playing cricket, red-ball cricket meant everything to me. It is the pinnacle of the sport. Whether it was Under-19 cricket or the Ranji Trophy, my goal was always to play Test cricket for India,” he said.

Suthar revealed that he remained focused on the possi-

bility of a Test call-up even while representing Gujarat Titans in the IPL.

“When my name came up in the squad, I was practising with the red ball during the IPL as well. I wanted to be prepared if the opportunity came,” he said.

The spinner also recalled the emotional moment when head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Shubman Gill in-

formed him about his debut. “It was a proud moment for me, my father and my family. Playing Test cricket for India has always been our dream,” he added.

Suthar credited senior spinner Kuldeep Yadav and other teammates for motivating him ahead of his debut. He also highlighted the importance of consistency in red-ball cricket, saying his success came from repeatedly bowling in the right areas rather than chasing spectacular deliveries. Observing assistance for spinners from the surface, Suthar chose to rely on his stock delivery and disciplined line and length.

“I didn’t want to get carried away. My focus was on consistency and spot-bowling. Whatever consistency I have today is because of that ap-

Pant is India's best Test batter, says Ashwin despite criticism



NEW DELHI

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has described Rishabh Pant as India’s best Test batter, while simultaneously criticising the wicketkeeper-batter for failing to convert promising starts into match-defining centuries.

Pant marked his return to international cricket with an impressive 81-run knock against Afghanistan in the one-off Test, helping India register a massive innings-and-300-run victory. However, his dismissal after getting well set left Ashwin frustrated, as he believes the left-hander has repeatedly missed opportunities to post even bigger scores.

Ashwin said Pant possesses exceptional batting ability and remains India’s most valuable batter in the longest format.

“You’ve got out so many times in the 80s and 90s. It is

impossible to discover such a great Test batter. But playing such a shot on 80 is mind-boggling,” Ashwin remarked.

The former all-rounder said Pant’s record could have been even more extraordinary had he converted several scores in the 80s and 90s into centuries. According to Ashwin, the 28-year-old now has enough experience in international cricket to better assess match situations and take greater responsibility.

“He has played more than 50 Tests now. He needs to start playing according to the team’s requirements on many occasions,” Ashwin said.

Despite his criticism, Ashwin was lavish in his praise for Pant’s overall skill and rated him above several of India’s leading Test batters, including Shubman Gill, KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

“He is actually the best Test batter India has. When he de-

fends, it is so good that even Sunil Gavaskar is impressed. He has so much time to play the ball, irrespective of pace,” Ashwin said.

The veteran also revealed that he had personally advised Pant on multiple occasions to value his wicket more and focus on converting starts into major innings. While acknowledging that aggressive batting is part of Pant’s natural game, Ashwin argued that successful Test cricket requires calculated risk-taking and percentage-based decision-making.

“Natural game is about playing percentages in Test cricket. Not every ball needs to be attacked,” he said. Pant’s latest innings has once again highlighted both his immense talent and the debate surrounding his shot selection, with Ashwin urging the star batter to combine flair with greater patience to reach even greater heights in Test cricket.



STOKES FACES CAPTAINCY THREAT AMID ECB PROBE INTO NIGHTCLUB INCIDENT

LONDON

England Test captain Ben Stokes is facing uncertainty over his leadership role after the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) launched an investigation into an alleged breach of team protocols following England’s victory over New Zealand in the first Test at Lord’s.

Stokes and fast bowler Gus Atkinson are reportedly

being investigated for their involvement in an incident at a nightclub during the early hours of Monday. The episode is also believed to have involved a player from rugby club Saracens, which was holding end-of-season celebrations at the venue.

According to reports, neither Stokes nor Atkinson was injured during the incident. However, ECB officials are treating the matter seriously and are gathering further information before deciding on any disciplinary action.

The controversy comes at a sensitive time for English cricket, only months after the team faced criticism over its drinking culture during the Ashes series in Australia, where England suffered a

heavy 4-1 defeat.

In an official statement, the ECB confirmed that an investigation is underway.

“The ECB is currently investigating a breach of team protocols following the conclusion of the first Men’s Test against New Zealand. Ben Stokes and Gus Atkinson were present at a nightclub in the early hours of Monday morning when an incident took place,” the board said.

Reports suggest the alleged breach could be significant enough for the ECB to consider removing Stokes as captain. If that happens, vice-captain Harry Brook, who already leads England’s white-ball teams, could take charge for the second Test at The Oval beginning on June 17.